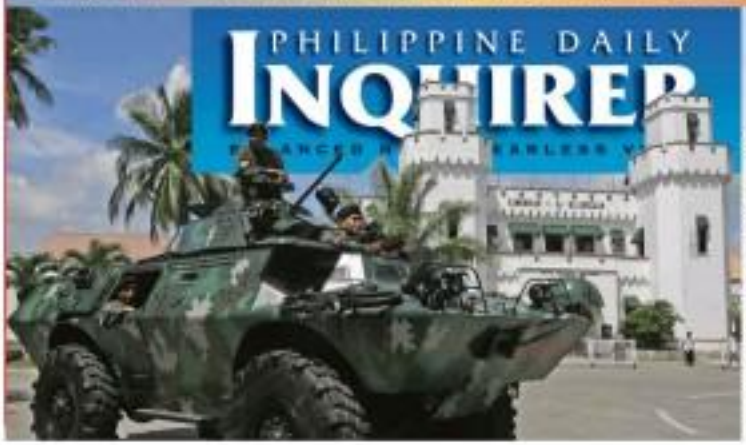
Thursday, June 16, 2011 ★★ 7 sections | Vol. 26 / No. 188 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Manila Bulletin Tel. No. 02-5310000 local 2201 | 02-8924541



P-Noy scraps 'surprise' visit

By Miko Marcos

IF THE Presidential Security Group (PSG) is around, can the boss be far behind?

Shortly before 6 a.m. yesterday, two minutes after the maximum security compound of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) called the attention of the positioned guards unusually stationed there and

PLEASE GO

NO SECRET Members of the Special Action Force assigned to secure the perimeter of the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City for the "surprise visit" of President Aquino on Wednesday keep the compound closed to arrested personnel earlier after the Palace canceled the inspection. PHOTOGRAPHER

PH pulls China markers

Navy: Wood posts found in isles off Palawan

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINE Navy removed "foreign" markers installed on three reefs and banks in disputed isles off Palawan in May and foiled an attempt last week to reestablish them, officials said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Omar Succay yesterday told Agence France-Presse that the removal of the wooden posts last month took place just before Manila protested "the illegal incursions by the Chinese boys into Philippine waters."

"These were foreign markers because they were not installed by our military or our government. So we characterized the markers because they are part of Philippine territory," the Philippine Navy spokesperson told the French news agency.

Manila has accused Beijing of putting posts and a buoy in Philippine waters, but Succay said the Navy found out from pilots in drumtime who placed the wooden posts.

"They did not have a 'Made in China' label or anything," Succay said, adding the posts had only numbers on them.

The markers were on Sin-

PH PULLS 10

SECOND LOOK From the edge of Pinatubo's eruption, Eco Village rises by the banks of Caledonian River in the Zambales, where residents are immersed in organic farming, tree planting, river protection, mangrove plantation and proper solid waste management.

Family remembers PDI man act of kindness

By Lynn A. Villarba
Art & Design Director

IT HAS been 20 years since Alberto Pinzuño remembered Iloilo its long sleep in June 1991 with a series of big bangs to become one of the most dramatic geological "awakening" in our lifetime.

The mt/epi/pinatubo eruptions have dramatically changed the face of Central Luzon and that of its population. And on have the map we looked at our relationship with the environment.

Where the volcano's first spectacular blast came unexpectedly on Independence Day the Baros family was one of those who failed to heed the call of the government to evacuate. Their then village in Sundan town in Zambales, 30 kilometers away from the epicenter

BAROS 10-1

Zambales bore brunt of Mt. Pinatubo's fury

SPECIAL REPORT

By Robert Gonzaga and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

duryfree print

IBA, Zambales—Residents of this province are still struggling under the weight of lahar that rolled down the slopes of Mount Pinatubo in 1991 and the subsoil that settled and irreversibly changed the landscape.

Zambales bore the biggest damage to public infrastructures in 1991, data from the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) showed. Yet, among the three provinces where the volcano's wrath was felt, Zambales is seen as the least-assisted even though they have undergo rounds of damage and repair.

In Botolan town, where Pinatubo's eruptions left an indelible imprint on the minds of its people and placed a heavy burden on their lives, a monument can still be found—one of five still standing in the province.

BAHRAIN 10-1

DOJ decision in Palawan murder case slammed

By Marlon Ramos and Jun Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE TIMING made it doubly painful.

Outrage greeted the justice department's dismissal of criminal charges against a former provincial governor and five others tagged in the killing of Palawan broadcaster and environmentalist Gerry Ortega, a ruling that came one a day after another media person was murdered.

"To accept the Department of Justice (DOJ) resolution would be to encourage more media killings, and further promote the culture of impunity that already exists in the country," said lawyer Harry Roque, counsel for Ortega's widow Purita.

The lawyer yesterday drew scorn on the DOJ resolution, saying "inexplicitously released the day after another broadcast journalist was shot dead in Gumaires Sur."

Roque was referring to Romeo Glea, a radio commentator based in Iriga City, who was shot dead early Monday morning on his way to radio station dwRX-FM.

"If it is not yet obvious by now, these developments highlight the fact that the Philippi-

DOJ DECISION A2

Revival of Spratlys oil deal pushed

By GVC. Catacutan Jr.

FORMER HOUSE Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday urged President Aquino to review an oil and gas exploration agreement among the Philippines, Vietnam and China to ease tensions in the disputed area of the West Philippine Sea, or South China Sea for China, and East Sea for Vietnam.

Based on his formula, De Venecia said that the Philippines, China and Vietnam should declare "open seas" or agree to "temporarily shelve" their issues on sovereignty on the Spratlys, demilitarize the area and convert it into a peace zone and divide equally among the three gains from a new joint marine seismic undertaking (JMSU).

De Venecia said a key modification in the 2005 JMSU would

DOVEN A3

Prosecutor in Garcia deal suspended

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG has filed administrative charges against Special Prosecutor Wendell Sulit of the Office of the Ombudsman and suspended her for 90 days in connection with the controversial plea bargain with former military comptroller Carlos Garcia.

Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. signed on June 14 the formal charge for acts and commission constituting graft and corruption and betrayal of public trust related to the plea bargain that led to Garcia's being freed on bail despite being charged with plunder.

Sulit was one of the signatories of the plea bargain between

PROSECUTOR A4

ACROSS
Ship stuck in Sarangani reef towed away / A10

ACROSS
P-Noy endorses Hataman as ARMM OIC / A10

BUSINESS
PH earns another ratings upgrade / B1

WORLD
Terminator's mistress breaks silence / A22

METRO
Parks for inmates get Manila warden fired / A19

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2 P.M.

Luzon	30	31
Visayas	25	5
Mindanao	5	24

QUARTERLY

Luzon	9	8	6
Visayas	0	1	0
Mindanao	3	8	4

4PM DIGITS

5 5 7 9

MEGALOTTO 6/45

9 14 17 18 22 42

P6,886,537.20

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

7 10 12 40 43 50

P32,489,622.80

GRAHAM BAWAL PALAKI!

TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR PH

Americans warned of terror

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE UNITED STATES has reiterated its travel warning for the Philippines, saying terrorist attacks could occur in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago as well as in the capital.

In a June 15 travel advisory, the US State Department said "terrorist attacks could be indiscriminate and could occur in other areas, including Manila."

"Targeted sites may be public gathering places, including but not limited to airports, shopping malls, conference centers, and other public venues," it said.

It asked US nationals to "take extra caution if traveling to Mindanao, or the Sulu archipelago, [where] regional terrorist groups have carried out bombings resulting in injuries and death."

"Sporadic clashes have occurred between lawless groups and the Philippine Armed Forces throughout Mindanao, particularly in rural areas," according to the agency.

In the new advisory, which replaced the one it issued on Nov. 2, 2010, the State Department also said "kidnap-for-ransom gangs are active throughout the Philippines and have targeted foreigners."

"US citizens traveling, living and working throughout the Philippines are urged to exercise heightened caution in public gathering places," it said.

The agency also expressed concern about the "continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against US citizens and interests throughout the world."

The US travel advisory is updated approximately every six months.

Last November, President Aquino attributed the travel warnings issued by foreign embassies in the Philippines, including the US mission, saying they were not based on firm intelligence.

'Improved security'

Last month, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) asked the US to lift its travel warning on the Philippines, citing "improved security conditions in the country."

Malacañang yesterday said it had "seen an improvement" in the latest US travel advisory.

"There have been amendments from the US in its previous [travel advisory] indicating that progress in the security situation, and therefore the safety of tourists and visitors, have been observed," Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said.

Lacierda noted four changes, among them the removal of the phrase "frequented by expatriates, and foreign citizens, including American citizens" in the previous describing the public places likely to be terrorist targets.

References to previous bus bombings in Makati and Ermita have also been removed, Lacierda said.

While there was still a warning about kidnap-for-ransom gangs throughout the country, there was no longer an advisory to limit security staff, Lacierda noted.

Police and military officials yesterday sought to downplay the latest US travel advisory, claiming there were no reports of any specific terror threat.

"I am not saying there is no imminent danger, but there is no specific report of terrorist threats in the country," said Philippine National Police Director General Raul M. Bacalzo.

He noted that the PNP had already downgraded the alert level in the country to "heightened" after the opening of classes, except in Mindanao where the maximum alert level remains in place.

PNP still monitoring

Bacalzo said the US advisory is just a periodic update likely prompted by the killing of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and the installation of a new leader.

Bacalzo said the PNP was still monitoring certain terrorist organizations, especially the Abu Sayyaf, and Jemaah Islamiyah—the regional terror network linked to Al-Qaeda—elements in southern Mindanao.

"If you will notice in the past few months, no one caught or killed some terrorist elements, especially kidnapping elements there," he said.

Military officials pointed out that bomb attacks and kidnappings in Mindanao were "isolated" incidents.

"We have not monitored any specific threat posed anywhere in the country," said Armed Forces spokesperson Commodore Miguel Rodriguez.

"There are some parts of Mindanao where [separatist rebels or clients are isolated and happen on a small scale. As such, they do not affect the general peace and stability of the region," said Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson for the Western Mindanao Command.

Assistant Secretary J. Edmund Abaya, the DFA spokesperson, said the DFA recognized the prerogative of foreign governments to issue travel advisories for the guidance of their nationals as the Philippines does for its own citizens overseas.

"These are part and parcel of consular functions and responsibilities," noted Abaya. With reports from Norman Bordadora, Ed Sisp and Itanz E. Bandilogan

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Bird strike a 'real threat' at Naia

KORRECTION: US Airways Flight 1549, which was successfully ditched in the Hudson River in New York City on Jan. 15, 2009 after being disabled by a flock of Canadian geese.

The incident, which became known as the "Miracle on the Hudson" because all 150 passengers and five crew members of the Airbus 320-jet survived, could happen here.

The "warning was issued a year ago by a Philippine airline [PAL] executive, who along with officials of the Manila International Airport Authority and Cebu Pacific acknowledged the growing problem of "bird strikes" at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), and in other airports adjacent to Manila.

"What happened in the Hudson could happen here. There's always this possibility," Capt. Enrique Demetrio, PAL assistant vice president for safety and environmental department, told the "Kapihan sa Malate" media forum in Manila.

The bird strike reportedly occurred about three minutes into the flight from La Guardia Airport in New York City to Charlotte, North Carolina.

"If you get struck by a flock of birds, your two engines may be disabled. Then you can't control the aircraft, leaving you to crash the plane somewhere. And landing at the surrounding areas of Naia, which are all residential areas, you can just imagine crashing within a two-mile radius. Not only the plane's passengers will perish but also those on the ground," Demetrio said. Jerry E. Esplanada

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7 new mouse species discovered in Luzon

By Tarra Quismundo

A TEAM of Filipino and American biologists have discovered seven new species of fauna mice in the mountains of Luzon, a development that highlights the country's rich biodiversity, said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DENR said yesterday that the team found the new rats species in the highlands of Luzon. Two were endemic to Mt. Data in Cordillera, another two lived in the forests of Mt. Banahaw to Quezon, two lived in the Mingan Mountains in Aurora and one of the species could be found in the Sierra Madre Mountain range in northeastern Luzon.

"It is extraordinary that so many new species of mammals remain to be discovered in the Philippines. In the past 20 years, we've published formal descriptions of ten rats or species, while other biologists have described more," said Ozzie Bahrle, field team leader.

"We are yet another close to the end of our discoveries. The Philippines may have the greatest concentration of unique species of animals of any country in the world," said the biologist.

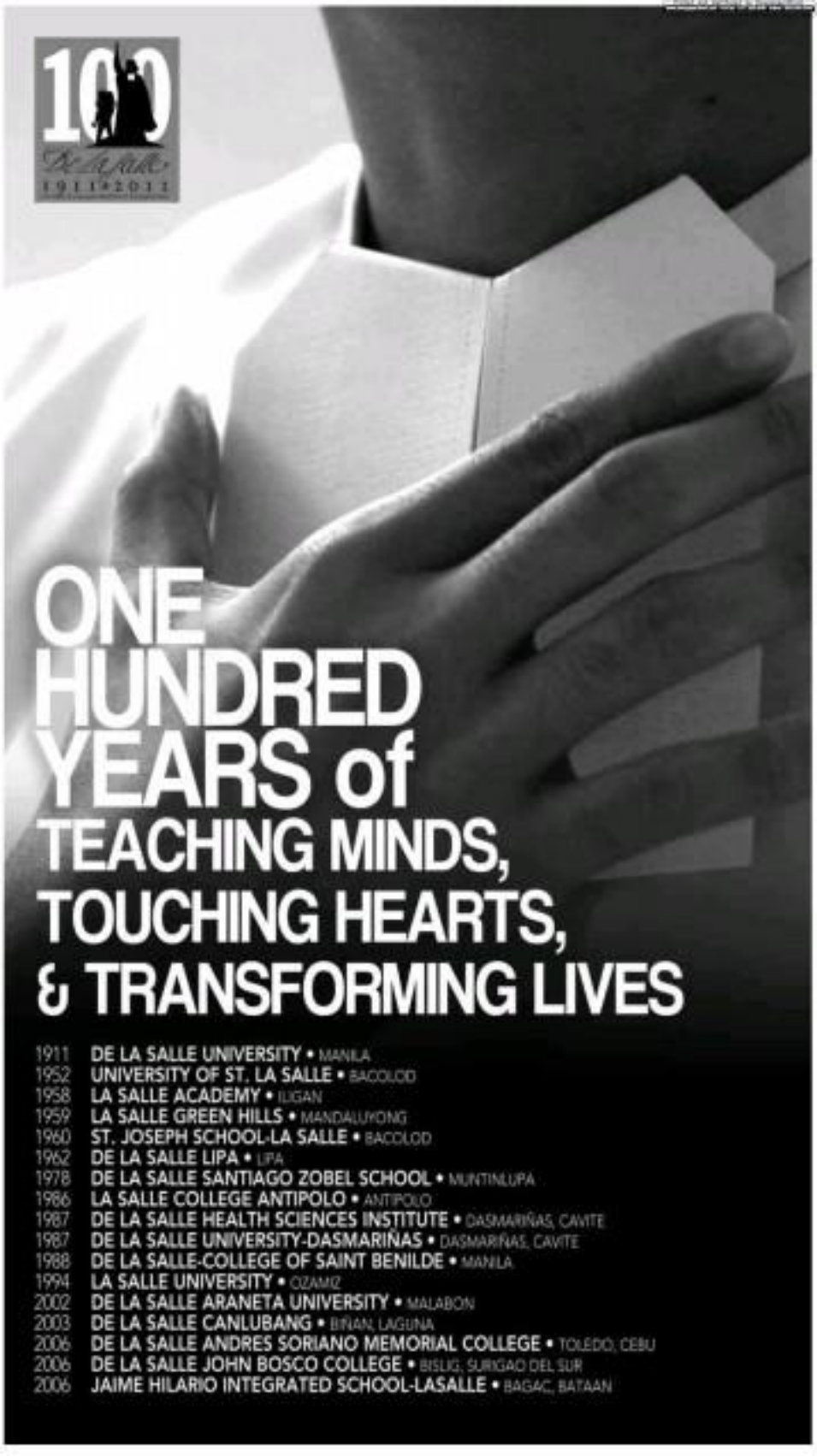
All the mammals belonged to the genus Apomys and could only be found "in a small part of Luzon," DENR said.

The mice were named recently after their habitat: Apomys sierrae, Apomys banahao, Apomys lanigerus, Apomys magnus, Apomys sumguiensis, Apomys datrus and Apomys aeroboticus.

An account of the discovery, authored by nine biologists from the University of the Philippines, the Philippine National Museum, Conservation International Philippines, the Utah Museum of Natural History and the Field Museum of Natural History, was first published in last month's issue of the PhilJournal of Zoology.

Describing the species in the Philippines project leader Lawrence Heaney said the mammals were "wonderful. It's nice that five in forested regions high in the mountains ... rats abundant, [yet] they actively avoid humans and rarely cause any harm. They prefer to eat earthworms and work on the forest floor."

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said the discovery underscored the country's reference to endemic species and came on a timely development as the United Nations and the national government have declared the years 2011 to 2020 as a "Decade on Biodiversity."



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1959 **LA SALLE GREEN HILLS** • MANDALUYONG
1960 **ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL-LA SALLE** • BACOLOD
1962 **DE LA SALLE LIPA** • LIPA
1978 **DE LA SALLE SANTIAGO ZOBEL SCHOOL** • MUNTINLUPA
1986 **LA SALLE COLLEGE ANTIPOLO** • ANTIPOLO
1987 **DE LA SALLE HEALTH SCIENCES INSTITUTE** • DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE
1987 **DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-DASMARIÑAS** • DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE
1988 **DE LA SALLE-COLLEGE OF SAINT BENILDE** • MANILA
1994 **LA SALLE UNIVERSITY** • OZAMIZ
2002 **DE LA SALLE ARANETA UNIVERSITY** • MALABON
2003 **DE LA SALLE CANLUBANG** • BIÑAN, LAGUNA
2006 **DE LA SALLE ANDRES SORIANO MEMORIAL COLLEGE** • TOLEDO, CEBU
2006 **DE LA SALLE JOHN BOSCO COLLEGE** • BISLIG, SURIGAO DEL SUR
2006 **JAIME HILARIO INTEGRATED SCHOOL-LASALLE** • BAGAC, BATAAN

Leila meets 'Abadilla 4' in Bilibid

By Mike Pilandoa

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday met with the members of the so-called Abadilla 5 at the New Bilibid Prisons, acknowledging the letter of appeal they sent to her last week seeking executive clemency.

She went to the area where the convicted killers of Marascos intelligence chief Col. Rolando Abadilla were incarcerated and spoke to each of them. She met with Cesar Fortuna, Lauro Lumayag, Joel de Jesus and Augusto Sucros during the inspection.

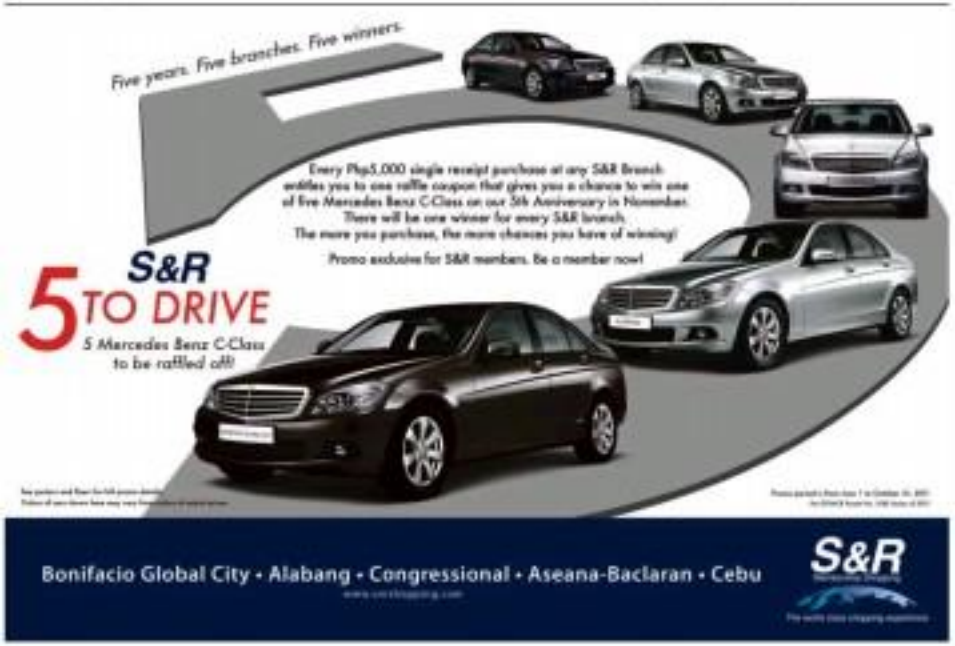
"The secretary assured the Abadilla 5 that once their papers complete the process and back to her desk, it will be immediately forwarded to the Office of the President for disposition," said Atty. Lucas, Department of Justice information chief.

De Lima did not meet with Antonio de Jesus because he was sent to the prison colony in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, Lucas added.

The Abadilla 5 are seeking executive clemency after the Supreme Court affirmed their conviction last year. The convicts have maintained their innocence, saying they were framed.

Lumayag's wife Wilma expressed relief when she heard about De Lima's conversation with her husband.

"I hope the meeting would produce something good for my husband. He's very ill," she said.



P-Noy scraps 'surprise' visit to NBP

Front page 41

and President Aquino's "surprise" visit had been called off.

No insider revealed to the inquirer why the trip involving the surprise inspection that Mr. Aquino had planned to make in order to see for himself the conditions at the NBP.

Malacañang and the Department of Justice (DOJ) told reporters assembled at the prison that the visit was canceled because the President was unwell.

But members of an advance party from the Palace, speaking on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to discuss the matter publicly, said the visit had been leaked to reporters, which explained why TV and radio crews were stalking out the 6 hectares of the penitentiary as early as 7 a.m.

The staunch Roman Catholic Aquino commuted the advance party after being breakfasted at a fastfood store in Alabang in Muntinlupa City.

P-Noy's initiative

"The visit was the President's initiative. As some reason, information went out about [it]," one official said.

He said a radio reporter overheard the visit on an ahead of the scheduled 9 a.m. inspection.

"We did not want our schedules to be overinterpreted. The President wants to see the situation on the ground, and his office decided to keep the inspection closed to media coverage," the official said.

"We planned to tell the Malacañang press corps about it when the inspection began as scheduled," he said.

But news of the inspection had panned through. Mr. Aquino was not likely to see the real picture, according to a source at the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) who also asked not to be named.

The source said Building 1 (formerly the Death Row area) and Building 5 in the maximum security compound were cleaned as early as Tuesday night and the inmates moved to separate locations for the duration of Mr. Aquino's visit.

"The only real thing the President would have seen is himself," was the pressing water problem in the compound," the source said.

He said that the prisoners had been outfitted a cloth-water source for days because of broken pumps at the deep well, and that they had been queuing somewhere to collect the precious resource.

Full bazzle gear

The visit was not linked to Mr. Aquino's official itinerary, but the security preparations mounted by the PNP and the police

FULL OUT A convoy of vehicles belonging to the presidential security force leaves the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa on Wednesday.

practically gave it away.

Two companies from the PNP in two-tour buses, another company from the elite Special Action Force, and some 100 members of the Southern Police District and the Muntinlupa Police Station, not counting intelligence personnel in plainclothes, had converged on the penitentiary.

All the security forces were in full battle gear, with a contingent force carrying riot shields and batons. Police commandos brought in two armored personnel carriers from Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

A prison guard said some members of the PSG were seen as early as a week ago.

The members of the Palace advance party could not pinpoint the information breach. They said that as far as they were concerned, only the DOJ knew about the surprise visit.

"In all honesty, we were disappointed here to evaluate the area [for the President]," an official said. "We would have to check first where the information came out."

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima ended up doing the surprise inspection, appointed by BuCor officer in charge Rafael Co and other officials.

She toured the maximum security compound and visited the "Muntinlupa," who had been seeking executive clemency in a letter signed in their own blood.

But some guards seemed prepared for the visit, handing out flyers that presented their version of the state of the BuCor, including salary differences with the employees of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

The flyers also carried messages calling for the passage of the proposed BuCor modernization act, which is among the safeguards of a congressional inquiry into and inspection of the NBP.

Even the people living in the prison reservation hoped to see the President in the flesh. Wives of BuCor employees positioned themselves at strategic points, saying they would ask him to address the plight of their husbands.

Arrangements

At yesterday's news briefing in Malacañang, the President's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said certain arrangements were made by the DOJ to ensure the surprise element of the visit as well as Mr. Aquino's safety.

But as it turned out, Lacierda said, the measures were useless to prevent a leak. He said he would have to discuss the matter with De Lima.

"I was already about to board the chopper when I was told the [visit] had been canceled because, I think, the element of surprise was negated," he said.

Asked where the leak had come from, he said he did not know.

Lacierda also indicated that there was nothing wrong with Mr. Aquino's health that could have caused him to skip the prison inspection.

According to Lacierda, Mr. Aquino wanted to see for himself the conditions at the NBP after it made the headlines for the 100 treatment being enjoyed by certain inmates as well as the problem of congestion.

The prison spokesperson said he was working after former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste, a chronic convict, was caught in Makati City last month without a pass.

"The idea [was] to pretend [BuCor] officials from browning that the President was coming to visit, and to observe what is really going on in the penitentiary," Lacierda said.

Asked how Mr. Aquino could make an unexpected visit anywhere when the PSG fanfic raises the area beforehand, Lacierda said arrangements were made by the DOJ to keep private officials from knowing about the inspection.

He declined to elaborate "to ensure that the [next] visit would be a surprise."

Message from OP

De Lima had received a message from the Office of the President (OP) saying Mr. Aquino was not coming because he was feeling unwell, DOJ public information officer Alex Lamas told the inquirer.

"That's all we know from the OP," Lamas said when asked if the boss had anything to do with the canceled visit. "I cannot say more than that."

De Lima denied talk that the visit was to blame for the cancellation of the visit.

"Somebody might be making up stories to drive a wedge between [me and the President]. May's advice you to please check those reports," she told reporters.

De Lima declined to comment on talk that the PSG might have compromised the "element of surprise."

"I cannot say that because that's a security matter," she said.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Marlon Ramos

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Prosecutor in Garcia deal suspended

Front page 41

state prosecutors and the retired major general.

In a brief statement issued shortly after noon yesterday, acting Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro said he had endorsed the preventive suspension ordered by the Office of the President.

Sulit is under orders to respond to the charge within 10 days upon her receipt of the document. She has to submit her response to the deputy executive secretary for legal affairs.

She may be removed by President Aquino from her post if found guilty of the charge.

At press time, Sulit had yet to respond to calls and text messages seeking her comment on the Palace action.

Injury to gov't

In authority of the President, Ochoa decided on June 3 Sulit's motion asking that Malacañang suspend the proceedings in her case.

The formal charge states that Sulit "caused undue injury to the government" and gave undue "unwarranted benefits, advantage and preference through manifest partiality, evident bad faith, and gross inexcusable negligence."

"[Sulit], together with her deputies/associates, impeded deliberately the case for the prosecution by ignoring, suppressing evidence favorable to the interest of the government and presenting evidence adverse to its cause," part of the document reads.

Malacañang also said Sulit fell short in discharging her "mandated duty in prosecuting the offenders and enforcing their criminal, civil and administrative liabilities with utmost responsibility, integrity and professional competence."

Malacañang said that Sulit was being placed under preventive suspension for 90 days "considering the seriousness of the charge [and] the existence of a prima facie case against her," and that her remaining in office "may pose a threat to the safety and integrity of the records and other evidence."

Palace action hailed

Malacañang's action against Sulit was welcomed by lawmakers involved in inquiries into the controversial agreements with Garcia.

Sen. Teofisto Guingona III said the suspension was "in consonance" with the recommendation of the Senate blue ribbon committee, which he chairs and which had hailed into the plea bargain.

"Malacañang is therefore paying attention to and following recommendations. This is the way it should be done," Guingona said.

The Senate blue ribbon committee recommended to the President in March the removal of Sulit and other state prosecutors for "betraying public trust," and the institution of administrative and criminal proceedings against them.

The committee said charges for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act should be filed against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez and the prosecutors.

"We have three bases for these recommendations. They abandoned, weakened and muddled the case to let Garcia off the hook," Guingona said then.

VOLET His statement

Sulit's Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., chair of the House committee on justice that filed a complaint against Sulit and three other prosecutors and recommended to Mr. Aquino their removal from office, said the preventive suspension was necessary to prevent Sulit from tampering with important documents.

But Tupas, along with Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Javier Colmenares, a committee member, said Sulit should have been fired.

"We hope that the Office of the Ombudsman decides on the death case of removing Prosecutor Sulit for gross negligence and betrayal of public trust and not so as to give way to a new hearing at the Office of the Special Prosecutor," Tupas said.

Chingkee tax scam

Colmenares said Sulit's facilitation of the plea bargain with Garcia had further disqualified her from being a public prosecutor of corruption cases.

He pointed out that she had also handled many big corruption cases against certain persons and companies, and that her suspension ensured that she would not conduct the same actions in these cases.

Colmenares called on the President to exercise his power under Section 8 of the Ombudsman Law by firing Sulit.

He said it would be impossible for the new Ombudsman to be named by Mr. Aquino to work with a special prosecutor like Sulit.

He added that the clearance of the Office of the Ombudsman should be thorough and swift.

"[Sulit] should also be charged for helping the Chingkee tax credit scam case," the lawmaker said.

Colmenares said Sulit had failed to prosecute Fuentes and Gloria Chingkee for plundering more than P2 billion in public funds and allowed them "to go abroad and jump bail."

The Department of Justice had given the go-ahead for the Bureau of Internal Revenue to file a P164.5-million tax evasion case against the Chingkees in connection with the multibillion-peso tax credit scam in the mid-'90s.

The couple are believed to be in China although they also own property in Canada.

With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, TJ Burgonio and Cynthia D. Rebong

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Man hounded on Facebook for wet puppy on clothesline

GLOBAL rights activists and thousands of members of the public expressed outrage Wednesday over a photo on Facebook showing a puppy pegged to a clothesline in the Philippines.

The photo was apparently posted by a young Filipino man on his Facebook account, where he initially ignored angry threats by pet lovers and boasted he would not be jailed for "mistreating" his dog.

The photo showed a small puppy hanging by her plastic pegs to a clothes line.

After going viral on the Internet, the link was picked up by animal rights activists, including the Bangko ka Ba Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), which launched investigations.

"We hope that Philippine prosecutors will take action and prosecute the young man," Philippine affairs Agnes Taoxis told AFP.

"This is not child's play, this is blatant animal cruelty." Taoxis said law enforcement had asked police and their local counterparts to help search for the man, who according to his Facebook page lives in a suburban area south of Manila.

While she acknowledged that Internet pranks were common, Taoxis said she believed it was not edited.

The controversy also made national television news, and the man behind the Facebook site took down the offensive photos on Wednesday while offering an apology.

"I hope you could forgive me and I promise it would never happen again," he wrote on his Facebook site on Wednesday morning.

However, thousands of people within the Facebook community refused to forget, signing up to a plethora of new pages dedicated to expressing their outrage against him.

"Tagpi-ti Mesa," wrote Melvin Abu Canda, warning the puppy pegger that he was being hunted down by his college friends brotherhood.

A 1998 law bans cruelty to animals, which is punishable by up to two years in jail.

That law is seldom enforced in its full extent.

However a Manila court last month ordered a university student who tortured and killed a cat, then bragged about it on his online diary to perform community service. /AFP

Stolen in Turkey, sold in Saudi and Syria, BMW found in PH

By BJ Pao

A $150,000 BMW sport utility vehicle that was stolen in Turkey in 2006 wound up in Manila after it changed hands in two countries in the Middle East, the Philippine National Police (PNP) Highway Patrol Group (HPG) found.

Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina, the HPG director, said records revealed that the BMW X5 imported by Wilson Espinosa was originally stolen in Turkey in November 2006 and later changed hands in Saudi Arabia and Syria before it was shipped to the country.

Espina said this came to light after Espinosa applied for an HPG Motor Vehicle Clearance in May.

"The acquisition of the motor vehicle by the owner from the Bureau of Customs could be recognized but its status as a motor vehicle from the country of origin was not automatically determined," an HPG report said.

Militants silent on Chinese incursions in Spratlys

By Christine V. Bagayaua

CEBUEER aggression is alarming, but the silence of activist left-leaning militants is equally deafening.

Certain activists critical of Japan about any issue involving an incumbent Philippine administration, and the United States have been unusually quiet over China's reported incursions in the disputed Spratly Islands.

Much of the pressure from Malacañang and the military concern reports that Chinese authorities had been stirring away fishing and oil exploration vessels from countries already claiming the territory otherwise in whole or in part.

Akbayan, a militant organization now allied with the Aquino administration, would say days ago it would "not engage in protest at the Chinese Consulate in Makati City at 10 a.m. today. Akbayan described itself as "the only left-leaning political party that stood up on the Spratlys issue."

Provocative intrusions

"As a Filipino political party, we cannot allow another country—Japan because it is bigger and has a stronger military—would disregard our claim," Risa Hontiveros, Akbayan spokesperson, said the incursion by planes.

"While we have competing claims that have yet to be settled, all other countries, we have shown good faith in trying to resolve the issue peacefully. So if there are incursions, we can't just ignore them. We feel we have to say something," Hontiveros said.

Akbayan said it would "demand an end to the Chinese government's provocative military intrusions into the West Philippine Sea even as it calls on all stakeholders to resolve the crisis through peaceful and diplomatic means."

The group also wanted a "demilitarization of the disputed areas and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to make its presence felt on the matter and restore regional stability and harmony."

Akbayan promised to mobilize 500 members for the rally.

Ingang Akmamang Makabayan (Bayan) broke its silence on the Spratlys issue on Wednesday. But Bayan asserts that the United States was "out to take advantage of the situation in advance its own political, military and economic agenda in the region."

"More than a hundred years after the declaration of Philippine independence, the Philippine government is still tagging along the coat tails of Uncle Sam, allowing the US government to constantly interfere in and take advantage of this Philippines," Bayan said in a statement.

Bayan and Akbayan are separated by ideological differences on issues such as human rights and agrarian reform.

Auction damned

Joining the fray, the leftist fisherfolk group Pamalakaya yesterday called on President Aquino to call off the planned auction of concessions for the exploration and development of 15 supposed petroleum blocks in the West's Philippine Sea.

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap noted that eight of the 15 offshore contracts up for bidding can be found within the Northwest and East Palawan basins, which he claimed were near the disputed Spratlys group of islands.

Hicap said in a statement that the blocks near the oil and gas search near Spratlys were Areas 3, 4 and 5, all in Northwest Palawan; and Blocks G, F, J and 13, located in East Palawan.

"The Aquino administration should recall this mind-boggling and provocative undertaking and resort to collaborative diplomacy among claimant nations," Hicap said. With a report from Amy R. Remo

PH pulls China markers in disputed isles

From page A1

quists (Amy Douglas), Bank Beach (Boxol Island) and Boxall Beach on the West Philippine Sea (North China Sea), he said.

"On June 5 again it was reported that our local fishermen based another marker," said Commodore Edgardo Tamayo, commander of the Western Command. Read more on Page A2

"I directed our patrol boat to check on the veracity of the report, and that was in Boxall Reef, only about 20 nautical miles (37 kilometers) northwest of Pagasa Island," Tamayo said in a phone interview.

He said his forces had dismantled the marker on the reef, a Philippine Navy occupied islet within the chain of islands that the Philippines collectively calls the Kalayaan Island Group. It is located 194 km (105 nautical miles) from mainland Palawan.

Defensive position

In Puerto Princesa City (Gen. Juanito Ambion told the Palawan provincial board that the Armed Forces of the Philippines would take a defensive position if challenged by China.

"We will list only what Reed spots. That is our rule of engagement," the Western Command chief said on Tuesday, reveling in questions from board members about China's reported plans to explore for oil in the region.

"In terms of military capability, we are very limited that is why we employ diplomatic means to resolve issues with China," Ambion later told reporters.

The discovery of the marker in Boxall Reef came in the heels of the discovery on May 24 of steel posts, a buoy and other building materials laid out by Chinese vessels in Iroquois Reef, which the Philippines claims to be within its 370-km (200-nautical mile) exclusive economic zone.

Manila filed a diplomatic protest over the Iroquois Reef incident, saying China "aggressively violated" the 2002 Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

The 2002 confidence agreement signed by member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) and China urges the claimant states to exercise restraint and avoid activities that might escalate tension, such as construction of military facilities and building war games.

The Spratlys is claimed in whole or in part by six countries—the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

No markings

Tamayo said Filipino fishermen saw activity in Boxall Reef during the first few days of June and then reported to the Navy on June 5 that they had spotted a marker.

"Our flowing navy was sent and confirmed the marker, the same marker that was found at Amy Douglas. That marker has the same description," he said.

He said the marker was about 10 feet long and about four inches wide and likened it to a flat bar.

"That was confirmed to be found at the Boxall Reef," he said, adding the marker was dismantled on June 6.

"We pulled out the marker to serve as evidence to prove that we saw that in that place," Tamayo added.

"Most of the new-age markings that will tell us it's same from the Chinese, (use) any Chinese characters. So I surmise it is imported from foreign origin. According to our militiamen, they suspect it to be Chinese because of that time they witnessed while it is being laid out," he said.

Code of conduct

Tamayo said the Philippine Navy subscribed to the provision of the Declaration of Conduct to avoid any conflict.

"Personally I should say that following the invention of the accident, supposedly we should be on status quo, meaning to say that we avoid putting up any particular structure like markers that would raise tension or raise conflict. That was the intention of the code of conduct.

A spokesperson at the Department of Foreign Affairs declined to comment on the navy's action, but Malacañang was hearing a sigh of relief following a statement by Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hong Lei that Beijing did not intend to use force in the Spratlys controversy.

"It is comforting that we will certainly withdraw as at least we have in the region an assurance that no use of force will be necessary to settle the territorial issues," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said. REPORTS FROM AFP: Norman Bordadora in Manila; and Bulletin S. Ang in Beijing

Revival of Spratlys oil deal pushed

From page A1

In the explicit exclusion of the Philippines' Reed Bank (called Reed Bank by China) from the agreement constituting the trinoc only 132 kilometers (81 nautical miles) away from Palawan and 925 km (500 nautical miles) from the Chinese mainland.

Dr Deneccio, whose wife took over his seat in Congress, expressed hope that Mr. Aquino would support his formula and take it up in his state visit to China.

As founding chair of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties, Dr Veneccio said he met with top political officers of the two countries—Communist Party of Vietnam General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and his predecessor Nguyen Phu Thong, and Ai Ping, vice minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China—who he claimed were "agreeable" to his proposals.

In a press conference at his Senate Norber mansion, Dr Veneccio claimed that the joint exploration of the Spratlys was first proposed by China's Deng Xiaoping himself and that the late President Ferdinan Marcos thought it was a practical idea when he brought it up in 1986.

Dr Veneccio was the lawmaker behind the JMSU signed six years ago which was criticized by some quarters as a concession to China in exchange for EC168 loan to change hands (programmed by the Arroyo administration to bankroll the NorthRail and SouthRail projects, and the corruption-laced NBN-ZTE broadband deal.

The exploration undertaken by Philippine National Oil Co., Petro Vietnam and China's CNOOC in 2005, confirmed Spratlys' potential for oil and gas production, he said.

Dr Veneccio said it was now time to revive the JMSU to include drilling and expanding the exploration contract to include other minor claimants such as Malaysia and Brunei.

He said that doing oil jobess and ensuring those of a global superpower was removed in 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines. One was murdered journalist as of its 58. 1M is to be killed in less than a year.

In neighborhood-hit the Province, Jesus Angeles, Cebu elder chief, said his father Rodolfo Reynaldo him to be conscious about security whenever they were out together.

"He would not let me see his motorcycle because he said I might be mistaken for him," said Reyes, 28.

The night before the murder, in fact, his father scolded him for coming home very late as the wee hours of the morning, he said.

A genius'

Javier said his father, whom he admired for being "a genius," tried to explain the need for caution by telling him stories his experts.

"I never thought I have accepted the fact that this incident

BEREAVED FAMILY Raquel Olea and her sons Jesus Angelo, 20, and Jose'i, 11, stand by the coffin of slain broadcaster Ronnie Olea at the funeral parlor chapel of San Miguel, Iriga City, on Wednesday.

that justice would be served.

Robredo visited Olea's wake in Iriga City and spent about 20 minutes with the widow Raquel, telling her to call him directly for whatever help her family may need.

Olea was the sixth media person killed under the Aquino administration and the 141th since democracy was restored in 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines. Olea was also the second journalist of its 58. 1M to be killed in less than a year.

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"I never thought I have accepted the fact that this incident

DOJ decision in Palawan murder case slammed

From page A1

journalist is under attack. When will our government learn to protect them?" Reyes said following Tuesday's release of a June 8 DOJ ruling clearing ex-Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and five others.

A three-member panel of the DOJ dismissed for lack of evidence the murder complaint against Reyes, his brother and Governor Mayor Mario Reyes, former Mambajao Gov. Jose Antonio Carreon, former Palawan administrator Antonio Nograles, Salvador Nograles and Rowind Lerina.

But the panel approved the filing of a criminal case against Reyes' former security aide Rodolfo "Bomar" Rafael Jr., Armando Reed, Dennis Acuna and Erwin Amarillo.

'Vindication' hailed

In a statement, Reyes hailed the ruling as "a vindication of my consistent claim that I had nothing to do with the killing of Dax Gerry Ortega."

Allegations linking him to the murder were just "unfounded and fabricated by my political opponents," the former governor said.

"As they say, the wheels of justice grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly well," he added.

Reyes said a motion for reconsideration would be filed by the victim's widow Patricia, who had accused Reyes of masterminding the Jun. 29 attack on her husband.

In her complaint, Maria said Reyes allegedly had the motive to have Ortega killed. The broadcaster had criticized Reyes for the latter's purported inability to stop mining companies in Palawan from violating environmental laws.

Ortega was shot at close range inside a clothing store in Puerto Princesa. The confessed gunman was arrested moments later and charged.

"We refuse to accept the resolution of the DOJ that found probable cause against the hired killers, but absolved the principal or mastermind who contracted their services," Reyes stressed.

Robredo at Olea wake

Also on Wednesday, the family of slain Camarines Sur broadcaster Ronnie Olea received personal visit from Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo.

Robredo visited Olea's wake in Iriga City and spent about 20 minutes with the widow Raquel, telling her to call him directly for whatever help her family may need.

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"I never thought I have accepted the fact that this incident

Robredo submits report on Kalinga scuffle to Palace

Lt. TRINIDAD, Benguet—Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo has submitted a report to President Aquino in connection with the scuffle that purportedly broke out on June 7 between Kalinga Gov. Jocel Baac and a breakaway faction a provincial board member inside a government radio station in Tabuk City.

In a news conference here on Tuesday, Robredo said the report detailed the preliminary investigation conducted by his department on Baac's supposed assault on Antonio Bangayong as another incident

gainst and that the earlier's "fiery comments" prompted him to walk to the station so that he could cut his side.

But Baac maintained that the supposed attack on the anchor was just an accident.

Church leaders in Tabuk City earlier asked Robredo to put an end to the controversy.

Francisco Gumawon, the DILG director in Kalinga, and leaders of the Catholic and Aglipayan churches and pastors in the province issued a statement on June 9 seeking a resolution to the case.

They also joined Kalinga officials in endorsing the peace initiatives the families of Baac and Tabuganay, he said.

Robredo said he received a letter from Baac containing his version of the incident. The letter was among the documents submitted to Malacañang for review, he said.

Gumawon, who was tasked to gather evidences for the DILG, said his report also urged government to tap a third party to dig deeper into the case.

Among the pieces of evidence submitted to Robredo were transcripts of the monthly radio program, "Sipnayan," which features Kalinga officials and hosted by Tabuganay Gumawon said.

"Signals" are on the first Monday of the month and all government programs are discussed there. But there were instances when Bangayong "attacked" the administration (Benigno) Aquino (III) and (Interior Secretary) Robredo," he said.

At this time, based on the transcripts, he called on the NPA (New People's Army) to come down from the mountains and surrender. That is against government rules. That accusation was validated by the transcripts, Wenceslao said.

Gumawon said the transcript of his interview with Tabuganay was not included in the report in Robredo.

The Cordillera police director, Chief Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, has since assigned two police officers to Tabuganay, who is married to a policewoman, Senior Inspector Norhaya Lucas.

KIDS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY
President Aquino receives the first copy of the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) from students representing various schools during the launching of NREP at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City on Tuesday. Republic Act 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act mandates the full development and use of the country's renewable energy resources. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

AMPATUAN TRIAL LIVE

Coverage guidelines worry prosecution

By Jayvee T. Sarol

A DAY AFTER the Supreme Court gave the green light for the live coverage of the Maguindanao massacre trial, prosecution lawyers, who were initially elated, are now worried that the coverage guidelines may be unlawful.

"Though we're happy that finally, the Supreme Court has granted the victims' request for live coverage... When we read the guidelines that the media should continue to cover the hearings from start to finish, we thought that's a violation of media rights, because [the SC] is deciding what the media could or could not broadcast," prosecution lawyer Nancy Roque said, in Filipino.

He added that editorial discretion on what is broadcast is the decision of media outlets, not the Supreme Court, otherwise it would be a "violation of press freedom," the Constitution and jurisprudence in the Philippines and abroad.

While approving until other coverage guidelines such as having no commercial breaks, having cameras from focusing on parties, and having live commentary inside the courtroom, Roque feared the required lull and not interrupted broadcast of proceedings is "depressive of due process...anytime is the property rights of media."

He said it would be irrational for media outlets to give the air time for free.

Roque urged media outlets to seek clarification on the guidelines.

"We asked for the live coverage because if the victims' families can't come here to Manila, they want media to see TV. But if we see this order is stifling to air because of the guidelines," that issues will be nullified, he pointed out.

Defense lawyers declined to comment on the high court's decision. They have yet to formally receive copies of the resolution, Hera Real told reporters.

But Mahkamadja is happy with the court decision allowing live media coverage of the trial.

"We welcome our call to the public to take opportunity to follow coverage of the trial. This is a historic opportunity to see our justice system at work, and to understand how such horrific crime could take place," Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said during yesterday's news briefing in Malacañang.

Told of the media's complaints against the guidelines, Lacierda said, "I can only ask them to raise it up again before the Supreme Court."

Mike Marquez, Supreme Court spokesperson, said the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and other news organizations could still seek a revision of the guidelines set by the court.

According to Marquez, the court's guidelines on airing news and commercial breaks while the live telecast of the trial is ongoing "must" follow the resolution was unviolated.

University of the East law dean Amado Valdez said the live broadcast could only highlight "the drama of the persons and not the substantive issues," referring to the guilt or innocence of the accused.

"With all due respect to the Supreme Court, I am against [live coverage] because people might be misled into making conclusions on the case," Valdez said.

"It could erode the confidence of the people not only in the judicial system but also in the law profession," he said. With reports from Norman Bordadora, Mike Morales, Marlon Ramos and Jocelyn R. Uy

Customs chief vows record tax collection

By Philip C. Tubeza

RELEASED/ERED: Customs commissioner Angelito Alvarez yesterday said he intends to finish the year with the "highest tax collection in the history of [the] Bureau of Customs," if he is still in his post by that time.

Alvarez also said that he had written to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima...who was the one who invited him to join the Aquino administration...for the finance chief to help explain his side to President Aquino.

Alvarez claimed that "vested interests" were out to get him because the reforms that he has started at the Bureau of Customs (BOC) were hurting them.

Mr. Aquino earlier said that he intended to implement a major revamp at the BOC and put in place leadership that is "knowledgeable about the system but untainted."

Alvarez said his two-page letter "and attachments" explained his side on the controversies at customs "across and what he has accomplished there."

Accomplishment report

"I highlighted my performance based on the results of my 11-month stint so far on revenue collections, trade facilitation and efforts to curb smuggling," he said.

He said it would be up to Purisima to decide what approach to take, whether to submit his letter to the President or to take Alvarez along with him to see Mr. Aquino.

"For my part, what is important for me is that I perform as my job and do what should be done. I should not be distracted by irritants," Alvarez said.

He said that when compared to the BOC collections from January to May 2010, the duties collected during the first five months of 2011 grew by P13.3 billion.

"We're very happy with that because up to June last year, there were still duties on oil products. Now, there's none and yet we still have this huge increase in our tax collection," Alvarez said.

"If we maintain this trend, my confidence level is high that we would surpass the 2010 tax collection by P50 billion. I expect that to be the highest tax collection in the history of Bureau of Customs," he said.

The BOC collected P229 billion last year.

Alvarez said he also explained in his letter why the BOC did not participate in the raids conducted at the 168 Mall in Divisoria, despite the President's orders that the agency join the Bureau of Internal Revenue in going after underworld, big smuggled goods at the popular mall.

He said that he was given legal advice that a BOC raid on the mall would be illegal.

Alvarez said the congressional inquiry into the recent expose on smuggled cars had shown that the cars were smuggled long before he became customs commissioner.

"In our efforts to curb smuggling, I reported that so far we've filed 37 cases (against smuggling) and our initial claims in terms of forfeitable value is close to P5.5 billion," he said.

New seizures

Also yesterday Alvarez presented to the media 16 container vans of Chinese-made ceramic tiles worth P30-million and a 2009 Kia van that was illegally imported from Jordan by a Bulacan resident.

He said the imported tiles arrived at the Manila International Container Port on May 30 on board two ships and were misdeclared by Condor Enterprises as "floor covering and carpet tiles."

Condor Enterprises claimed that the shipment was only worth P4.4 million when the BOC value-examination section cleared that it was "actually worth more than P30 million," said deputy customs commissioner Horacio Suzuna.

Benjamin Lazard, president of the Ceramic Tiles Manufacturers Association, had tipped off customs officials about the shipment.

Alvarez said it was the third attempt to smuggle ceramic tiles in the last six weeks that the BOC had foiled.

The 2009 Volvo car, valued at P4 million, was illegally imported from Aqaba, Jordan a month ago and consigned to Bulgarian national Plamen Vasilliev Tsvetoli. It did not have the needed permit from the Department of Trade and Industry.

Alvarez said he has ordered an investigation, in coordination with the Jordanian government, to see if the car is one of those corrupted refunds being sold in the country.

Ping not yet off the hook–SC

NOT SO FAST

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who was a supreme leak from the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, is not yet off the hook to questioning his alleged involvement in the Zaldy Gordon double murder case, the high court said yesterday.

Midas Marquez, Supreme Court spokesperson and administrator, said the court's ruling throwing out the petition of then public relations expert Salvador "Bubby" Dacer's widow seeking contempt charges against Lacson for the death of their father, was merely due to technicality.

"It (ruling) did not discuss the substance because the petition was dotted on its procedural aspect. So there's no need to delve into the substance," Marquez explained.

He said state prosecutors may still file a new criminal case against Lacson if the prosecution could present a new set of evidence. Marlon Ramos

THE DAILY GOSPEL

(SUN) 16 (Thursday)
Psalter: Week 1
13th Week in Ordinary Time
Pr 111 :7b-8, 9-9, 7-8
Your works, O Lord, are justice and truth.

1st Reading: 2 Cor 11:1-11

Brothers and sisters: Bear you bear with me in some little foolishness! But surely you are to some little foolishness. I am jealous for you, for I have promised you to marriage to Christ, the only spouse, to present you to him as a pure virgin. And this is my fear: the serpent seduced Eve by his cunning; could also corrupt your minds and divert you from the Christian sincerity. Someone now comes and preaches another Jesus different from the one we preach, or you are offered a different spirit from the one you have received, or you embrace a different Gospel from the one you have accepted and you accept!

I do not see how I am inferior to those superlative apostles. Even my speaking is not unskilled, as you will perhaps, but not my knowledge; as I have abundantly shown to you in every way. Perhaps my fault was that I humbled myself in order to exalt you, in that I gave you the Gospel free of charge. I robbed other churches by taking support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you, although I was in need, I did not become a burden to anyone. The friends from Macedonia gave me what I needed. I have taken care not to be a burden to you in anything and I will continue to do so. By the truth of Christ within me, I affirm: no one in the land of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine.

Why? Because I do not love you? God knows that I do!

Gospel: Mt 6:7-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "When you pray, do not use a lot of words, as the pagans do, for they build that the more they say, the more chance they have of being heard. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need, even before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come and your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread we need. Forgive us our debts just as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from the evil one. "If you forgive others their wrongs, your Father in heaven will also forgive yours. If you do not forgive others their wrongs, your Father will not forgive yours either."

Reflection:

It may have surprised our saints, but otherwise were taught about the Lord's Prayer, we were taught to see God primarily as a Father, not the first. He is a Father whom we can relate to with their intimacy and unmediated openness, that flows from the complete trust of praying. Jesus draws us to come to God as a child approaches his father. This is the defining character of Jesus' treatment of the Abba Father and he wants us to share in this one step of relating. This is why God as a Father brings us to a whole new experience of divine intimacy. In effect, this richly familiar treatment of God allows us to have our everything that our hearts desire.

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WHISTLE-BLOWER
Hardly concerned to hide her identity, a woman who identified herself only as "Maritoa" talks the media when she leaves after she alleged "fanning" payola involving policemen in a press conference in a restaurant in Manila on Tuesday. The "whistle-blower," however, will face criminal charges. MIKE ALQUINTO

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

Across the NATION

P-Noy endorses Hataman as ARMM OIC

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Even before the Senate approved the postponement of elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Malacañang already has a man in mind as the region's officer in charge—Basilan Rep. Jim Hataman.

On May 30, all five provincial governors in the ARMM were summoned to a meeting in Malacañang to discuss Hataman's possible appointment. The Senate approved the postponement of the ARMM polls on June 6.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu said in the May 30 meeting, President Aquino "endorsed Hataman to us."

Mangudadatu earlier rejected reports ARMM OIC Hataman is advising to remain in his post until the elections in 2013, but changed his mind after the meeting in Malacañang.

Present in that Malacañang meeting were Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo, Lua Autonomy of the Mindanao Development Authority, Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Ronaldo Llamas and presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda and Ricky Carandang.

Social democrats

Llamas is a close friend of Hataman's and colleague in the social democratic movement. He was also a classmate in the class who pushed for the postponement of the ARMM elections.

"We didn't disagree seeing the potentials of Hataman and we agreed to support," said Mangudadatu.

Mangudadatu said when the President asked the opinion of Basilan Gov. Jim Akbar, "We didn't answer."

"But she explained that she needs to inform first the families and relatives of her late husband [Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar]," Mangudadatu said.

Hataman was one of the earliest suspects in the 2007 Batasan Pambansa bombing that killed Rep. Akbar. Hataman denied involvement in the bombing.

Yesterday, some Basilan local officials, in a letter to the President, a copy of which was sent to the Inquirer, expressed opposition to the possible appointment of Hataman.

Except for Akbar, all other governors in the ARMM said they would support Hataman.

"Major Hataman] is okay with us. Besides, we are assured to guide him. We know that he owes us a lot with our full support," Mangudadatu said.

One was quiet

Lanao del Sur Gov. Mamintal Adiong told the Inquirer by phone that except for Basilan Gov. Jim Akbar "who went against Hataman's appointment," all the other governors support him as officer in charge of ARMM.

Adiong said if Mr. Aquino handpicked Hataman as ARMM OIC, then "we should support him [Hataman]."

Tawi-Tawi Gov. Sadikul Sahali said he has no choice but to accept the President's choice.

"What is needed here is the support of the national government now," Sahali said. Whatever support we get from the national government will surely reach the local level," he said.

Sahali said he sees Hataman as a "good conduit" for requests for infrastructure and livelihood projects because "he gets the President's support."

Tawi-Tawi Abdusakur Tan said he also "respects the President's choice and decision."

"And we support anybody the President picks, somebody that has his confidence and he sees that is Hataman," he said. Julie S. Alipala with reports from Sheik B. Macalma, Inquirer Mindanao

TUGBOAT'S try to pull MV Double Prosperity out of the Bahod Reef in Sarangani where the vessel destroyed corals and angered officials of the province.

Ship that destroyed corals in Sarangani towed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Panama-registered bulk carrier that destroyed the protected Bahod Reef off Kamlon, Sarangani, was finally towed on Wednesday after more than a month of being stuck there, a provincial official said.

Ariel Espaldon, provincial legal officer, said the MV Double Prosperity was finally released past 1 a.m.

He said the vessel is now in the custody of the Philippine Coast Guard.

The 224-meter-long cargo ship—manned mostly by Filipino crewmen—was at its way to India from Australia with about 66,000 tons of coal when it ran aground seven kilometers off the coast of Kiamba on May 8.

During investigation, the crew pointed to human error as the cause of the grounding, which damaged a huge chunk of the Bahod Reef, an important marine sanctuary in Sarangani.

But Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez said he believed the crew was busy watching the Pacquiao-Mosley fight and left the ship on auto pilot when the ship plowed into the reef.

Dominguez said the Coast Guard reported that no one was manning the cockpit of the vessel at that time.

The ship destroyed parts of the reef that marine experts estimated to be worth between P60 million to P80 million.

The ship's operator hired an independent expert for a separate assessment of the damage. The independent expert, however, confirmed the findings of the team that the Sarangani government had tapped.

In a race to prevent further damage to the reef, the Sarangani government and the Coast Guard agreed to tap the help of a Malaysian tugboat firm.

But previous attempts to remove the vessel had reportedly failed even after some of its coal cargo had been unloaded.

Espaldon said the removal of the ship would allow marine experts to now make an inventory of the actual damage that the vessel left on the coral reef.

The vessel, he said, would be kept at the Coast Guard station in Davao City pending the settlement of damage claims.

He said the owner of the vessel had expressed willingness to pay for the damages that the ship wrought on the reef, including expenses for refloating the vessel.

Espaldon said the ship would be allowed to leave the Philippines only after its owner has paid for the damages. Aquilino Z. Pimentel, Inquirer Mindanao

2 kindergarten kids die, 40 others ill in food poisoning

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Two kindergarten pupils died while more than 40 others, including at least three students, were taken ill after they ate rice noodles served at a school canteen in this city on Tuesday.

The victims' parents and their town building officials of the Luzon State University School responsible for the apparent food poisoning and vowed to bring them to court for negligence.

"We will work on the filing of charges against the school officials. We will first take care of the remains of our child," said Melanie Ballad, mother of Elaiza Marie Ballad, 5, one of the two fatalities.

"We have been sending our children to school, hoping that they will be safe there while they are learning. We have to punish those responsible," said Jessie Bangayan, father of Jessica Mae Bangayan, the second fatality.

The children, reports said, ate identical rice noodle meals served in the canteen before noon. Some of the children who were already vomiting and feeling weak as they boarded buses in the hospital immediately," Saberico said.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro went to this city on Wednesday to condole with the families of Ballad and Bangayan. He also visited students and teachers confined to the Cagayan Valley Medical Center.

Luistro said the Department of Education (DepEd) regrets the poisoning and promised his department's support for the victims.

DepEd has formed a committee to investigate. "We will ensure that those [responsible] will be punished," said Romeo Tamamaya, DepEd director to Cagayan Valley.

Mayor Delfin Ting said the city government is extending financial assistance to the victims.

Tamamaya said the investigating committee was evaluating reports that the Home Economics teacher who prepared the rice noodles mistook a cleaning powder for salt and put it in the dish.

The teacher, Marilou Fiesta, has been relieved pending results of the investigation. Hildelyn Vargas Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

LGUs advised seized corals OK for exhibits

By Editor A. delos Angeles
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Local governments may consider planning to put up marine museums as a way to showcase to exhibit some of the 13,000 black sea lion corals seized by customs authorities here recently, officials said.

The shipment of corals, which came from Cambodia, was intended to Cebu from the MV Lorcon Manila of Lorenzo Shopping Corp. It was misdeclared as metal scraps and consigned to Cebu Junk Shop, a nonexistent outfit.

It actually contained 148 bundles or roughly 37% pieces of endangered corals with an estimated value of P15.5-million.

On Tuesday, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) turned over the corals to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in the region. Both agencies have agreed to distribute the confiscated items to schools, nongovernment organizations and LGUs.

We are asking the learning institutions to coordinate with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education," said the BFAR's regional director Andres Bojos.

"For the LGUs like Cebu City who would want to put a marine museum, they can set such center to coordinate with one of us," Bojos told reporters.

A POLICEMAN from Lapu-Lapu City poses with a pair of corals seized from suspected poachers in the city.

The corals will be kept temporarily at the old facility of the Department of Agriculture on M. Velez Street.

The BFAR, BOC and Phil Ports-Cebu, the authority organization of Cebu engineers, have drafted a memorandum of agreement to ensure the safety of endangered species still at sea. BOC district collector Ronaldo Mercado said.

"We can have the commitment of... [Phil Export-Cebu] members (that the corals) will not be used as raw materials in the manufacturing of their export products," Mercado said.

The massive destruction of the country's coral reefs by poachers was uncovered Jul. leading a recent failed attempt to smuggle black corals out of the Philippines.

An investigation has been conducted, but the damage has been done and government authorities aren't expected to bring to justice now the culprits in the environmental destruction.

Students find ₱60,000, 2-yr course not accredited by Tesda

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BAGUIO CITY—Students who paid P60,000 each for a two-year computer-based accountancy course discovered to their dismay that the course was not accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

Because of this, 26 students of the ASIA Computer Learning Center (ACLC) have been caught the help of Tesda provincial director Rolando Joanillo after being given the runaround by officials of the school that closed down in December.

The students had been informed by Tesda that there was no accreditation given to the ACLC computer-based accountancy course.

Student Shelly Ann Basas said the school had not given students their transcripts of records and diplomas to prove that they took the course or they have not been able to apply for jobs related to it.

"We are asking that our papers be released so that we can apply for jobs for the course we took," Basas said.

Joanillo said he has set a meeting with Ma. Elena Li. Mendo, ACLC director, to discuss the complaints of the students.

Libmeda, however, said she was no longer connected with ASIA and the students should bring their concerns to the ASIA head office in Manila.

The students said in a letter to Joanillo that they graduated from the two-year course at the ACLC Baesilan in May 2010.

They said a certain Jun Montaño, an ACLC instructor, have assisted them at Tesda accreditation.

"After hardships of our parents and the money spent to send us to school went down the drain," they told Joanillo.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Black Nazarene also stays in Capalonga

By Jose Bonagua Jr.
Capalonga, Camarines Norte

ON HIS 25th year as prior of the St. Lucy parish in the coastal town of Capalonga in Camarines Norte, Fr. Edwin Abel is more than happy that the main street leading to the church has finally been widened and cleared of stalls.

Before, farms Alconda Avenue was occupied by hawkers anticipating sales during the May 22-13 religious fiesta. The next, 250 busloads of devotees of the Black Nazarene of Capalonga had the entire roadside for jostling space, Abel says.

Capalonga is a far flung fourth class municipality famed as the scene of a million-devotee affair known for its own image of the Black Nazarene, similar to that in Quiapo, Manila. It is 76 kilometers from Daet, the capital town, and 332 km south of Manila.

"Everything becomes so orderly. Senior private vehicles were also able to park inside the church premises. People came to pay homage to the miraculous image of Black Nazarene of Capalonga, most of them three generations of Chinese-Filipino families," Abel says.

Shrine

The prize reveals that it was the product of a rural project of the local government unit to put the municipality on par with the parish to attract pilgrims and tourists upon completion of a new Black Nazarene shrine.

Abel says the hilltop shrine in the barangay Talagutico will overlook the sea beside the coastal road, 3 km before reaching the town center.

While he has little knowledge about the Black Nazarene of Capalonga, Abel believes it to be more or-old, like the one in Quiapo, which was carved in Mexico and brought in the Philippines in 1600.

He learned from curious devotees how the Black Nazarene came about.

According to one story, someone found a log with red sap flowing on the seashore and saved the image of a kneeling Jesus carrying the cross. When it was dried, the red saps turned black.

In another, someone found the black Nazarene image after it was washed ashore and brought it to the church.

The last story refers to a Dominican devotee who carved the image, its color similar to that of his tribal people.

Abel says Capalonga was originally inhabited by the Dumagat people, but converse rings through generations have caused traces of their physical attributes.

While the religious feast is celebrated in honor of the Black Nazarene, the parish founded in 1634 is also dedicated to St. Lucy. Virgin and Martyr, he says.

"We do not know which came first, the Black Nazarene of Capalonga or St. Lucy. But I am sure the image (Black Nazarene) is old and miraculous," Abel says.

He says the Black Nazarene image is very popular among Chinese-Filipinos because their "pero fuerte ha" (good health, fortune and long life" are fulfilled. Devotees come every year from as far as Cagayan de Oro and Baguio cities, as well as the different towns of Camarines Norte and Metro Manila.

Mayor Mariano Arguelles says the widening of streets was started in January. The municipal is paid for the reconstruction or renovation of buildings that were affected by the project, like the may three Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando did with sidewalk vendors and clearing operations, he says.

He reveals that the town's host mayor, Armandos Salgado, was a deputy general director for the charge of traffic of Fernando's MMDA.

Centerpiece

Capalonga is laying down the groundwork to develop the town as a tourist destination with the shrine as centerpiece, and the beach fronts along the way as resort facilities.

It has also created a task force of 40 members assigned to execute road improvements in its 22 villages.

But the local government alone cannot carry out such an ambitious project, Arguelles says. It plans to invite investors under a build-operate scheme, he says.

At present, he says the town depends on its internal revenue allotment share from the national government, amounting to P60 million this year. Local revenues average only P2 million per year.

Since the Edsa Revolution in 1986, the Salgados family has ruled over local politics. Former Lia Salgado, who was appointed officer in charge by then President Corazon Aquino, won the mayoral race in the first local election after the uprising.

Her husband Ramon Salgado, do it., took over until his death on December 2010 in the 2010 election. According to Arguelles, the present mayor is "protective" and is committed to stop "jueteng" (a numbers racket) and other illegal activities and cooperative on infrastructure projects.

Resentment has decisively enforced the laws against illegal fishing and had arrested offenders jailed and prosecuted.

Teodito Ibdala, a resident of Barangay Calabaca and municipal councilor of the Office of the Governor in Capalonga, complained that for more than 20 years of Salgados running their town, no single road going to the 32 villages had been constructed.

Ibdala said connecting of the 30-km national road going to the town proper from the eastern Bagasbas, who was appointed officer in charge by then President Corazon Aquino, won the mayoral race in the first local election after the uprising.

The tourism project is cosmetic with scenery widespread and the majority of the population depending on fishing and coconut farming, he said. A great number of middle-income families depend on family members employed abroad or have small business in the town center, he added.

On locale of 18, Ibdala group Dumadits a grade of 7, saying he seemed sincere and active in eradicating illegal activities.

Abel is worried that the mayor may encounter difficulty in going after criminals, including illegal loggers, because local politicians are involved. The priest, however, did not name names.

But he advised that favoritism must depotism a task force directly under him command and low-level police control to desirably eradicate crimes.

THE BLACK NAZARENE of Capalonga town in Camarines Norte, believed to be centuries-old, is mounted on a golden "vitalda" inside the Parish of St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr.

The coastal town in Camarines Norte is being developed as a tourism destination with the Black Nazarene shrine as centerpiece and the beach fronts along the way as resort facilities

Saving a river flowing through Bicol's heart

By Gabriel Hidalgo Bontiala
Contributor

WHEN THE Naga River overflowed at the height of Typhoon "Reming's" fury 22 of the 27 barangays of Naga City in Camarines Sur were flooded, forcing more than a thousand families to seek shelter and survivors in strategically located evacuation centers in this heartland of Bicol.

Rare or loose, the river has been inextricably intertwined with the history of the ancient city founded by Ruined Ciudad de Nueva Caceres, one of the five original Spanish settlements in the country established in 1586.

Beyond its historicity, the 1.5-kilometer crown stretching up to 15 km on its headwaters has nothing to a technical paper: Naga River plays a significant economic role, irrigating the fertile upland barangays where vegetables and other cash-crops thrive, and nurturing the once expansive rice fields of the low lands.

It is also the center of the annual Feast procession in honor of Bicolandia's patroness, Our Lady of Peñafrancia. Incidentally, in the devotion, which draws almost a million devotees, has been going on for 300 uninterrupted years, its tercentenary having been marked last year.

Despite (or because of) its strategic importance, the Naga River has to contend with siltation, pollution and attendant problems spawned by human transgressions all through the decades. Now, it is a mere shadow of its former self with a severe quality barely measuring aquatic life.

When he was mayor, Jesse Robredo (now interior secretary) implemented the "Save the Naga River" program aimed at reversing the deleterious effects of the unbridgeted and unregulated use of the waterway.

It proved to be an uphill battle until last year when Naga was selected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore and the World Bank Institute as a recipient (along with Quezon City) of the Philippines in the first-ever executive program on leadership in local governance code named (MDR) Electives, Action and Results).

The program was piloted at National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

Team Naga

Team Naga was composed of then incoming Mayor John G. Bongat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO) chief Wilfredo Peñas Jr., city engineer Leon Palanyuan Ruiz, budget officer Francisco Mendoza and this scribe.

After the 10-day course, the team unveiled the Naga River Revitalization Project. It included the crafting of a comprehensive urban infrastructure program, upgrading of river banks and establishment of water treatment facilities to address river pollution.

Barely three weeks after their Singapore sojourn, the city council declared the revitalization of the Naga River as a top priority project. The Catholic Church, through Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi himself, expressed unequivocal support for the project.

Bongat ordered the creation of a multisectoral task force headed by the CPDO to oversee the implementation of the project. He decided to take the bull by its horns, so to speak, and ad-

dress head-on the "squatter problem," i.e., the informal settlers on the riverbanks.

And he was taken aback by the settlers' willingness to pull out of the restricted area for as long as they would be given a resettlement site by the city government.

Partnerships with other sectors were forged, a conceptual design control launched, consultations in the 10 riverine barangays conducted and the "Team for Naga River" structured to further ruin public awareness.

Negotiations with the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization and the Cities Development Initiative for Asia on technical assistance.

For sure, the project won't be a walk in the park, though minipparks and walkways along the riverbanks still form part of the grand design.

BIC House may anger well for the river that runs through the heart of Bicol. And with some help from his (the Bicolano term of endearment for Our Lady of Peñafrancia), it can truly be transformed into the river of life.

The author is the vice mayor of Naga City.

SAN JOSE ISLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(SIMELCO)
Buenavista, Buenlipas, Buenlipas, Cebu

INVITATION TO BID

Item No.	Quantity	Item Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Price of Bid Documents	Estimated Duration
1	1pc.	Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Turnover of One (1) unit 10MVA, 69/13.2kV Power Transformer at Mahayag Substation of Dapitan City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (DCELCO)	P 12,000,000.00	P 5,000	180 d

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
Publication of Invitation to Bid	June 16, 2011
Issuance of Bidding Documents	June 16, 2011
Pre-Bid Conference	June 24, 2011 10:00 AM
Deadline for Submission of Bid Proposals	June 30, 2011 8:30 AM
Opening of Bid Proposals	June 30, 2011 9:00 AM

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

For complete set of bidding documents may be purchased at the SIMELCO Office, upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above. Bidders may inspect the bidding documents at the address and website of the SIMELCO and PHILGEPS. Bidders must submit their bids on the deadline specified above at the SIMELCO Office.

The San Jose Electric Cooperative, Inc. reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept or reject any bid as it may deem best and most advantageous to the government, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from SIMELCO Office or telephone number (035) 4228111 and (035) 4228112 or send e-mail to simelco@yahoo.com.

SIMELCO reserves the right to waive any formality in the requirements for the eligibility requirements and for the Contract. SIMELCO reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to any bidder when it finds that the lowest evaluated bid is unreasonable or not in the interest of the government without liability, depending only liability in accordance with Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

(Sgd.) MRS. ANNA M. MARIN
Chairman, BAC

Date: June 16, 2011

INQUIRER

OPINION

The coming crisis

THE COUNTRY'S population grows by about two million every year. That's like adding half the population of Singapore, or a third of Hong Kong's, every 12 months. Feeding an enormous, fast-growing population is difficult enough; feeding it as a time of gathering crisis—the new Oxfam report speaks of "spiralling food prices, devastating weather events, global financial meltdowns"—taxes a nation's resources to the utmost limit.

EDITORIAL

It is possible that the prospect of a severe shock, like the possibility of a shooting war, will jolt both government and people, both business community and civil society, into massive, concerted, effective action. But even though many people report themselves as going hungry, too many of us do not see the looming problem as a food security crisis.

Against this background, Oxfam's "Growing a Better Future: Food Justice in a Resource-Constrained World" makes for chilly reporting reading. Inquirer columnist Carlos Dakila Jr. has already touched upon some of the more startling estimates or statistics gathered by Oxfam, an international network of NGOs present in 90 countries: over 815 million people around the globe go hungry every day; as much as 25 percent of food in developed economies go to waste; the biofuels initiative means some 40 percent of the US corn crop goes to feed motor vehicles, not human stomachs; between 1983 and 2008, agriculture's share of international aid plummeted from 20.4 percent to 3.7 percent; the world's population is expected to breach 9 billion by 2050.

What is even more disturbing is that whereas before global food imbalances could be blamed largely on distribution, today and in the run-up to 2050 productivity has become just as much a problem. The challenge can be summed up simply in the following estimate: in the next 40 years, the world's population will grow by about half, but food supply must increase by 70 percent.

The Philippines is especially vulnerable to a food shock. It is only about 80 percent food self-sufficient, despite improvements; about 13 million hectares of agricultural land are showing declines in "net primary productivity." Most of the country's most important fishing grounds are overfished. In 2008, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization included the Philippines in its list of countries with "severe localized food insecurity" (meaning external assistance was required). In 2010, the Nutrition Institute's house named the country as one of 80 countries highly vulnerable to food price surges. As the condensed by over-fast imports in the last years of the Aquino administration showed, sometimes the governments itself, instead of keeping prices stable, end up starting food price surges in the first place.

Unfortunately, when food prices spike, poor families bear the brunt. Oxfam research shows that those families which spend three-fourths of their meager income on food end up sacrificing education, health and medicine.

What can be done? Philippine initiatives cannot be implemented in isolation from those of other countries, but the following seem necessary:

We can greatly increase investments in agriculture and in fisheries, taking particular care to invest in the future of farmer and fishers through capacity-building programs. We can reconsider the country's commitment to the biofuels agenda, taking particular heed of those voices warning that more biofuels investment can only lead to food insecurity. Not least, we can overrule the country's smarter minds, the best scholars and experts, in a Manhattan Project-type of effort to find a way to protect even more of our crops from the deadly but predictable typhoons. The idea is to minimize crop damage as much as possible.

Closer to home, in the cities where newspapers are read and online social media have taken root, we can try a variation of Oxfam's name-and-shame campaign. The original campaign helped to dramatically lower the costs of HIV medicines; perhaps a local campaign led by Oxfam and its partners in the Philippines can help prevent food wastage, possibly by taking a closer and more skeptical look at all those eat-all-you-can, rice-all-you-can, drink-all-you-can promos. Basta mumurungin pauso.

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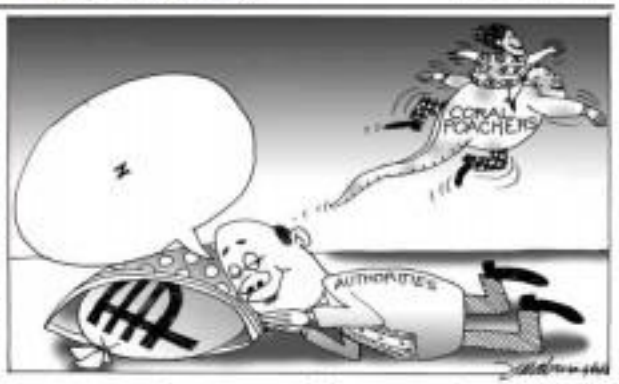

Culture war, Philippine style?

COMMENTARY

Roberto E. N. Rivera, S.J.
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

"If I were to call you a 'cultured individual,' would I be praising or insulting you?" This is one of the first questions I pose to college students in my Introduction to Sociology class. Anthropology classes at the former de Manila University (my Mass students, of course, can testify silently) ask whether they would like to be associated with "primitive culture," "high culture," "popular culture," and other variants of "culture," the words become more defensive. And every year their culture just how contentious and controversial a concept culture really is.

It is reminded of the controversy-ridden use of culture when I recently received James Davison Hunter's influential book "Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America," published 26 years ago. Hunter's work topographical the use of the term "culture war," which had gained currency in the late 19th century as a reference to the struggle of secular governments to confront the authority of the Catholic Church (most notably Otto von Bismarck's Kulturkampf in Germany), in 1991 America, the "culture war" referred to the polarizations of political beliefs, with the main battle lines drawn along several "hot button" issues. These included abortion, child care, affirmative action, gun rights, public education, multiculturalism, among others. Until today, progressive and conservative (or "pro-life" and "pro-choice") consorted with the Democrats and Republicans, respectively, with first themselves galvanized by their conflicting standpoints these issues.

In a culture war zone being waged in the Philippines, with the contentious debates surrounding the reproductive health bill and, in recent weeks, the proposed divorce bill, one might say that the Philippine political scene is now sadly on progressive and conservative constructs, into a deeply religiously charged polarization, the newspaper columns managing the lay of the land.

Hunter sees the culture war as emanating from conflicting views of moral authority which he designated as "orthodoxy" and "progressivism," respectively. The conservative, orthodox camp would see "the commitments on the part of adherents to an external, definable and transcendent authority." On the other hand, progressivists would assert that "moral authority tends to be defined by the spirit of the modern age, a spirit of rationalism and subjectivism" even as they adhere to "universal ethical principles in part derived from the author's religious and humanist traditions."

These divergent sources of authority are certainly evident in the RH and divorce bill debates. In opposing reproductive health and divorce legislation, for instance, the Catholic Church commonly appeals to the natural-law notions of respect for life and the sanctity of the family, as expressed in the Church's moral and social teachings. Proponents of these bills, on the other hand, would look at the complex set of modern problems (e.g., growing women's health issues) and frame the passage of these issues as a concrete demand of justice and equity.

And precisely because these conversations at times are seen as ultimately moral in their core, the conflicting sides in the culture war can be regarded in their positions and their doctrines also readers as "moral proclamations," where the "competing moral claims, and the rhetoric has manifestations, become the defining focus of public life," while each moral position/claim tends to "monopolize the energetic of motivation and of attention on society as a whole, it is the darker aspects of this psychodrama that seems to be at work in the

Can be done, if...

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiroz

TO BE CONTINUED

"There's still order," says Bishop Carlos Crisostomo about P-Noy's vow to wage war corruption by the end of his term. "With his inner power he accomplished."

"There's no assurance," says Bishop Broderick Pabillo. "Maybe a 10-percent reduction in five years. But he must live and see proves he friends if they are found guilty of wrongdoing. He must also select competent officials."

I guess P-Noy's vow isn't the matter doing to fulfill. Corruption is now only to presidential as the newly-declared profession, and probably especially in this country it's been around longer than anyone can remember and will probably be around longer than anyone can remember. But it can be pushed back to a point, enough for it to gain sufficient momentum. And if there's anyone to do it, it's P-Noy. There's no one better, for one do it, but it will require a lot of "ik."

He can do it if he can enlist the aid of the broad spectrum of the citizenry. Especially the moms, the bishops. That is one very monstrous, not if, coup for their second time he. Throughout the years, and over the last 10-to-part-mile, the bishops have not been part of the vote, they have been part of the debate.

It's still very well for them to say Friday should have competent people. But the thing is, are they capable of discerning competent people? For a very long time, they not only propped up Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, they actively championed her. They did not just say, "Let's give her the benefit of the doubt," they said, "Everybody means anyway." Our sins have anyone into competents to undertake cleaning up government, in other society, that the person they believed and foisted upon the people all those years?

Just as well, it's all very well for them to say P-Noy should have power his competence. But the thing is, do they know what competence is? Of course, P-Noy is not as willful, resolute and steadfast as Gloria. He does not display the blind obedience from his officials while he accuses the country. He does not hesitate to steal the money, the vote, and the hope of his people. He is no obsessed with keeping power.

But his is honest. He is upright. The kind of honesty and uprightness that does not confuse morality with piousness, integrity with hypocrisy. There is no mistaking his sincerity when he vows to rid the world of corruption. There is no mistaking his determination when he vows to cleanse the lands of its dirt. There is no mistaking his desire to rid the nation from this country.

Can anyone be more competent?

But it will take more than desire to rid this country of corruption. It will take strategy. It will take more than "will" to make this country breathe easier; it will take way. It will take more than methods to create the impossible dream, it will take method. That's where the color monumental "ifs" come in.

He can do it if he punishes the corrupt of the past the way they ought to be punished. "Corrupt" itself does not do justice to the crimes of the former rulers. They were corrupt only in the sense that Marcos was; a corruption that was personal. But they did not stop only there to the tunneling of this country's soul till nothing was left. That is the corruption for which they ought to be punished with the implacability of the Furies. As the very least as a matter of justice. The victims of their theft, particularly the flesh of their deserve it. If the very least as a matter of being able to say "Never again," and mean it. The very life and future of this country depends on it.

But as it is, one year after P-Noy came to power on the strength of a mandate unmatched for the past regime and an equally unmatched coming to see its overarch ground to bear, not a single case of corruption, broadly or narrowly defined, has been filed against them. You can tell all you want about ending corruption, you can want all you want to end corruption, but none of it will happen if you cannot show that where there is crime, there is punishment, where there is wrongdoing, there is imprisonment, where there is wickedness, there is retribution, there is vindication.

He can do it if he can enlist the aid of the people in his cause. This is the part where Pacific Power is vital in pushing corruption to the brink. It bears repeating again and again. Our economy alone cannot stop corruption. It needs the help of the people to do it.

We need public appointees to stop corruption. We need citizens to stop corruption. We need the people to collectively succeed at corruption to stop corruption.

Conversations about ousting other the corruption's make the corrupt quake in fear. They can always lure high-powered lawyers to keep the wheels of justice turning. They can always buy the prosecutors can't be bribed. You need the people themselves evoking the corruption the way the Japanese and Russians do, compelling their to disenfranchise themselves when they are found out to have dishonored themselves for the dishonor fall upon the children, to do it. At the very least you need the people not electing the corrupt to become godfathers and godmothers of their children at baptisms and weddings to do it.

Conversations alone stealing virtues would make the thieves quake in their boots. You need the people themselves shouting, "Magnanakaw! Mandarambong! Gumulat!" the way they do in underworlds where they survive, feeling the depth of the hurt of a handbag or wallet. Knowing they have been stolen from, they have been dispossessed, they have been oppressed, so do it. You need the people themselves doing to the corrupt, the pillagers, the murderers-king what they do to the muggers-thieves, murderers and rapists who violate their sanctuaries, which is to beat them within an inch of their lives, figuratively or not, to do it.

After all, yes, that is can be done.

Is he losing it?

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

[illegible] March survey, largest has narrowed and is now differing 4.1 million Filipinos, from 5.4 million in November.

"[My] point in blowing my long Aristotelian torch at Mikhil Cuy on food tradeshow build at Filipinas dahil student na matatanong kung ubusibo sa pasok. Ano ngayon po, ang pinapi-ubusan na lang ay ang tradelong kalibhan at ref? ang Filipino walang tradelo." Mr. Aquino wrote in his usually oblivious of the fact that even with the designer jeans of his political upbringing, he retained likable flaws as man like the government he is now entitled imposing a ban. The DepEd also has reported that since he took over, 2.6 million more Filipinos were added to the ranks of the jobless.

Mr. Aquino's legacy had other statements that didn't square well reality. Using the answer keys for corruption ("Kabuti"), Mr. Aquino claimed: "Si salvador din ito sabin ang mga kinot ating Neoliberalism na LLDM, or NPM3 as in the gang ahenda ng pribatisasyon, deregulasyon, at pagbaba sa ha pandaigdigan."

After 11 months, don't have been to cases, allegations, even hints of corruption uncovered by the new DPWH administration. Worse, the NPM3 acknowledged Mr. Aquino's attitude: Mr. Aquino stated that everything done during his predecessors' term was colored with corruption and put on hold many construction projects and reviewed them. As a result, an National Economic Coordination Board is still reviewed, government's under spending "was arrested the economy to a lower growth," worsening unemployment.

Yet Mr. Aquino is claim that he reduced the "bahot" or the Laguna lake Development Authority as it would draw dwellers to cancel the dredging and rehabilitation project could be his biggest governance bust so far due to the economic policy equivalent of the Lucena barangay Sanny ban bagsak. The project is to be financed with official development assistance (ODA), totaling 232 million euros (P16 billion) was to be undertaken by Sumitomo Corporation of Kore, one of the most respected infrastructure companies in the world after building its name in [illegible].

In his first 100 days speech in October, Mr. Aquino boasted that he had uncovered an anomaly: the project did not go through proper bidding procedures. Despite that, the COA report, released by his own appointee, Grace Pulido Tan, found that the project complied with procedures.

Inexperienced, and required to boot-headed government officials more than once succumbed to the temptation for kickbacks and graft, the Belgian company in April filed a case demanding P6 billion in damages from the government with the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Because of his Aquino's pigboyishness, we stand to lose billions of pesos worth of Belgian ODA, just P6 billion in damage claims, and tens of thousands of jobs in [illegible] construction. His decision-long project to develop Laguna lake will be all for shortcut. The Belgian ambassador-ally are now spreading the word to the European Union that Mr. Aquino is not only incompetent to understand EDA projects, he does not even realize the adverse economic impact to his country of unilaterally canceling international contracts.

Could it be that he's losing it?

My e-mail: rigoberto.tiglao@gmail.com

Personal histories

IT'S DIFFICULT for most people to relate to true Bicol. The issue is not isolated here who wrote poems, articles and novels. His travels around Europe survive slumps from one experiences. The has little to be experienced that has taken safe and imprisonment were unfortunate to us who have barely been outside of our comfort zones. How can we relate to life of who was not only shifted to the northern world but also in the east?

If we look into Bicol's childhood and college years, we realize that he he was more to the man than his achievements and political difficulties. In "Memories de un Bicolano de Manila," he recalls his child-hood days in Cabusao

YOUNG BLOOD

Katrina Rose T. Casing

We want to know what the young are thinking about. *What are their thoughts on current issues? How do they see the future? How do they view something and below... Ed.*

his sand schmidgings in Bikini and the Answer. "Has no interest in [illegible] and [illegible] when he was between 11 and 16 years old. Leon Ma. Guerrero examined this Spanish memoir in "The Young Rizal." Its introduction recognizes a difference value on Rizal's life.

"In the Memories, for all their unpretentiously have a freshness, a spontaneity that have a charm all their own. They have a quality of conversation that a more sophisticated and self-conscious Rizal immediately admire the former and proudly records the latter. His rudimentalities are revealed when he recalls the death of his sister Concha and how when he no less about Segunda Katigbak, his first love.

His personal diary about his childhood and school days serve as the bridge between the average Filipino and the Rizal he knows. Such personal view on Rizal's life erases the notion about his unattainable possibility in becoming like him. The introduction to "The Young Rizal" even goes as far as to say that "Memories" [name is possible for every generation to believe that... they can be other Rizals."

The problem with how historical heroes are portrayed is that they are made to look bigger than life, gone men and women's we cannot copy how to become. We always think that we still never make the heights they reached.

But we don't need to die for our country or write novels that will shake the world to be like Rizal. We can be heroes by observing our lives to what we are passionate about such as a particular cause or interest, and making a difference. Rizal's love for our country and his belief that the Spanish were not mentally superior to the Indios pushed him to devote his life to fighting for our independence. Both of these were manifested in him as a child.

Like Rizal, I keep a private diary where I locate of my achievements in school, compact myself with my academic "rivals," complain about people who annoyed me and talk about the difficulties of living away from my family.

I started my diary when I was around 12 years old. But as I get older, my writings become more narcissistic. I was overwhelmed by my own selfish problems such as growing good grades, and forming over bad troubles. My diary doesn't include what was happening to my friends and family. It has become a selfish showcase of my struggles, [illegible].

In contrast, Rizal's diary continued to present a good balance between his intimate thoughts and his observations about the world. His writings are not completely self-centered. His observations about the outside world are recorded in his writings about his mother's imprisonment, Governor's ill and his younger sister's death, to mention a few examples.

If Rizal had restricted himself to writing only about his personal life and troubles, he could have lost sight of the important events taking place around him. If he had limited himself to writing only about the events happening around him, he could have overlooked other numerical matters such as narrative and critique. For example, during his mother's imprisonment, Rizal wrote about his concern about his family's so-called friends: "From these on, while still a child, I lost my confidence in friendship, and substituted more... we had been separate days lives of not much to and by whom? By men who had been our friends, and whom we had treated as invisible gurus." This was one among the many events in his life that shaped him into the man we know today. The importance of keeping a balance between internal and external influences is one lesson we can learn from him.

Like Rizal, we often look back to our past, trying to figure out the how and why of important events in our lives. It is necessary to look back to our personal histories so that we can understand our present strengths and limitations, our desires and hopes. The importance of keeping a balance between internal and external influences is one lesson we can learn from him.

To me Rizal's childhood and school days are the most relevant aspect of his life. His writings during the period make him more human and a more inspiring figure to young people. His writings demonstrate how one can be aware of significant events around him and his own feelings. They invite us to look into our past so that we can understand ourselves and make the choices that will make our lives productive and meaningful.

We invite our own personal histories in our diaries or in our hearts. Ultimately the choice is ours whether to plot the histories we have learned to good use or not.

Katrina Rose T. Casing, 16, is a third year BS Health Sciences student at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Yamot's Aetas and Mt. Pinatubo 20 years ago

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

[illegible] IO no ang ang ating kabuhayan. E po ang ating [illegible] ng [illegible]—Ibid, as Ate Sandy.

Here are excerpts from the letters aside I wrote shortly after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption that went on for days in June 1991. I had gone to Zambales where the volcano was still spewing ashes and mud half a meter thick. The area and the Aetas whose wattle-and-daub community in Iduran on the volcano's slopes were buried in ash and mud no more. Nine years earlier in 1982, I spent time there and never stopped thinking about the Aetas.

It was the home of Pastor and the nurse who first alerted Pinatubo about the volcanic warnings. I remember Sr. Emma Rosalinda, PMM, a sciente who lived among the Aetas, rushing to the town to phone the Philippine Institute of Volcanology that [illegible] was [illegible] with hot ash. In fact the Aetas were not taken seriously because the volcano was [illegible] as its dormant. Or, Emma it now no possible [illegible] and [illegible] the Philippines.

There Mt. Pinatubo sprang to life in 1991 and gave the world an astounding geothermic show that destroyed provinces of plants, birds and caused some climate change. The Aetas of Iduran would never [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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A 'prostitute' local officials run to

LETTERS

I READ with interest Jose Bravo's column ("Davao 'Bros' shall not," Inquirer, 6/26/11) relative to Mindanao Development Authority Chairman Secretary Jesus Dureza's initiative to put the seat of the Local Government Academy (LGA) in Davao City.

The LGA is a "prostitute" local agency which only whimsical and capricious impulses be the criteria. Its existence must be challenged. It is the equivalent of the pork barrel of the senators and congressmen, which is under their undisputed control. Even the Interagency Committee who approves the LDP, being the decider, endorses also their list. Its only mission now is to serve as the fund distributor of the LGSF.

The Commission on Audit, a constitutional guardian of public funds, is liable either by existence or in part of a "conspiracy." The reasons: COA auditors are well provided with travel allowances and office supplies (subject for concurrence) in the amount in supplemental budgets of LGUs.

There is transparency in the creation of LDP funds since Senator Pimentel's primary claim (his main measure of the Local Code of 1991). Malacañang in the case of this LDP are only mentioned in the COAs payrolls or annual audit reports. Bayan has no association with the LGA.

Please, Mr. President, abolish the LGA and its regional offices. Let the funds be released directly to the LGUs. Without the LGA, the LDP will be released directly to the LGUs. Without the LGA, the LDP will be released directly to the LGUs. Without the LGA, the LDP will be released directly to the LGUs.

—RODOLFO C. CABANATOS
167 Legaspi St.,
Bahayang Zambales Homes

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Division of Northern Samar
Catarman

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL FURNITURE

1. The DepED Division of Northern Samar through the FY 2010 General Appropriations Act intends to apply the sum of PhP 3,700,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for CY 2010 Procurement of School Furniture. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The DepED Division of Northern Samar now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture, 10,000 sets of Elementary Armchair (all sizes). Delivery of the Goods is required by end Oct 2010 within 90 calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within 5 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives, and organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to Philippine corporations, associations or partnerships of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from DepED Division of Northern Samar and purchase the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of PhP 1,000.00.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The DepED Division of Northern Samar will receive bids conforming to Item 6 on April 6, 2010, 2:00 p.m. at DepED Division Office, Bobongon-ng Ilog Bata, Catarman, Northern Samar, which shall be open only in the presence of the bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause

Bid opening shall be on June 28, 2010, 2:00 p.m. at DepED Division Office, Bobongon-ng Ilog Bata, Catarman, Northern Samar. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The DepED Division of Northern Samar reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

9. For further information, please refer to:

Analyn B. Gabuchan
DepED Project Office Provincial Staff
Main St., Catarman, Northern Samar
Email: n_northernsamar@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) BIENVENIDO D. DIAZ, PhD, CESO III
Division Superintendent/Chairman

BAC Secretariat

'Ahora mismo' call in public service

LACK OF school buildings, lack of textbooks, lack of classrooms, and lack of delicacies are problems that face the Department of Education every time school year opens. These problems should not have become perennial. And the powers that be, past administration to the present ones at the center, have done other important national concerns, such as health, security, job creation, and alleviation of the plight of the marginalized sectors of society should be set aside, but the increasing number of our young receiving kindergarten and the dearth in the higher education and secondary schools, the brown paid concerns in government, should be given permanent attention and importance.

The crescendo cut of an academic school I was in elementary in the 1950s, in our town of Lagonoy, Camarines Sur, where seven other class size classes were held under the big acacia tree or in the makeshift school and elementary markets, the brown paid concerns in government, should be given permanent attention and importance.

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DepED classes in one room open-air upright, picture of the country's largest need for thousands of new classrooms.

The crescendo cut of an academic school I was in elementary in the 1950s, in our town of Lagonoy, Camarines Sur, where seven other class size classes were held under the big acacia tree or in the makeshift school and elementary markets, the brown paid concerns in government, should be given permanent attention and importance

Zambales bore brunt of Mt. Pinatubo's fury

From page A1

Remedios Hagpid, 31, an Ati in from the Bagsilan resettlement, said memories of what happened would be with her "until my last days."

"I remember the sky getting darker in the middle of the day and the earth also shaking. People were fleeing and animals were [wailing]," she said.

Her daughter, Gemma Ramos, who was 8 years old in 1991, said: "It was a very hard time. I grew up through the worst of it. There was no food or water, and we depended on rubber to give us that and peanuts during."

Gemma is now married at 28 and has two children. What depresses her was another instance of misfortune in 2009 when Typhoon "Ondoy" hit the province, and the flood swept away their houses.

"We had to go to the mainland to start over again," she said. They say that the water and mud fell from the mountains and broke the [Bucao] dike, and I think that is still because of Pinatubo. I'm sick that my children have to live through this [ordeal] again," she said.

Pinatubo legacy

Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said Pinatubo's legacy in the province would be "felt for a long time."

"Even though there was greater damage to property and lives in [Barangays and Sacbat], they were able to reconstruct [and move on] soon after the initial eruption because they are [situated on a plain]," he said.

In Zambales, the remaining sand and lahar deposits on the slopes from Mt. Pinatubo and drain to the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) through major river systems.

"Whenever there is a storm, this sometimes results in flooding in the affected portions of the province, like the towns of Botolan, San Marcelino, San Felipe, San Narciso and San Antonio," Ebdane said.

Destructive lahar on the beds of Typhoons in Botolan, especially in 2002 and 2009, served to remind government of the need to protect the town.

Projects

Zambales received P300 million from the Office of the President in 2009, but the amount went for the repair of the Botolan dike, a new bridge and drainage structures.

Ebdane, a former public works secretary and rehabilitation projects, such as the Pinatubo Hazard Urgent Mitigation Project, were not implemented in the province due to lack of funds. The project needed P4.9 billion for Zambales alone.

At present, it's still in Phase 2, [covering] Bataganga projects [and] the fourth phase. The fifth phase, which is [focused on] Zambales, has not been funded yet," the governor said.

Hercules Maderazo, Zambales disaster engineer, said the river systems were heavily silted.

"About 80 percent of [volcanic materials] fell on the Zambales side, and the other 20 percent in Pampanga and Tarlac. Of that 80 percent, most of it is now in the rivers and bifurcated rivers. When there's heavy rain, they still overflow if not doubled [and spawn floods that destroy infrastructure or damage crops]," he said.

Keeping rivers deep

Schools, roads and bridges have been removed and rebuilt, he said. "What we have to watch out for now is keeping the rivers deep enough so that sand and lahar can flow to the nearest earth basin of the [West Philippine Sea] when it rains."

Provincial agriculturist Rene Bautista said agriculture had been crippled by the eruption. Irrigation systems were destroyed, leading to the decline in farming activities and poultry production.

Olongapo Mayor James Gordon Jr. said his city, the major commercial center of Zambales, had recovered after 20 years. "Life goes on. We didn't go backward, and we are still going forward," he said.

He said the city's recovery was made possible by 8,000 volunteers led by his brother, then Mayor Richard Gordon.

"Our experience here taught us that disaster preparation should be at the forefront, and we must group together when disaster strikes," he said.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Administrator Armand Arreza, who was one of the volunteers in the early 1990s, said he saw how empty and abandoned the city was after the eruption. "But through it all you could see that the community spirit was very strong."

Lands, safety

Records from the National Mapping Authority show that the government had issued 11,374 titles for the 48,846 hectares and lots it had built in 36 lowland resettlements in Central Luzon since 1992.

It was only on the 19th year after the eruption when the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples began giving out certificates of ancestral domain titles (CADT) to ethnic Aetas living on Pinatubo's flanks.

Among those, the CADT application of 508 Aeta families over 11,723 hectares in Crow Valley in Capas, Tarlac, appeared to be most controversial because the site is used by the Philippine and United States military for war games.

In 1909, Jaime Hernandez and famous Ifugao of the Philippines Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) had advised local governments and residents in Central Luzon not to let their guard down, especially against floods and lahar flows.

"Though Pinatubo might not be active again in the near future, it left a trail of hazards which will keep the residents and government agencies preoccupied with planning programs to minimize the risks brought about by those," they said.

"These problems will continue to remain even decades after the eruption. Thus, long-term planning is a must."

Gaps in implementation

In a brief assessment, the Phivolcs acknowledged that "while pinatubo is comprehensive in rehabilitation master plans, the implementation was also premature, piecemeal planning and implementing urgent preliminary responses is consistent with the twin strategies of containing flooding/lahar and restoring/sustaining economy."

Stella said the gaps in plans and implementation were "the result of the government's financial restrictions and competition between the different regions of the country for a fair allocation of the national budget pie."

The government, it said, created "best effects" given the circumstances. "Since the gap between those that were planned and those that were implemented is significant, the region should continue pushing for the implementation of urgent projects and the identification of new ones."

Family remembers PDI man act of kindness

From page A1

Maybe they were too distracted from the danger that government vulcanologists, then led by the eminent boy monk Paicanghaiyan, knew was developing into a big bang, the Ibatan mother, only known as Arsinioco (street sweeper) to this could give her large blood.

Not until three days later when the volcano exploded violently, leaving an ash cloud rising 35 km into the sky that fell on their neighbors, were the Ibatan bound for Iloc.

Because it took some time to gather a family of 11, what with a baby in tow, the family missed boarding the trucks sent by the government to take them to the resettlement area.

An Ibatan crew was then screaming that distracts Gay when it churned upon the last remnants out of Bataan.

After a harrowing escape away from a 32 km high inundation zone, the Ibatans, a photo photographer Boy Calderón decided to head back to Bataan looking for lower and more photographs.

It was getting dark when the crew spotted the abandoned two adults floating on foot under the acid rain and sulfuric acid[1] smothered by the sunshine encarnival of "typhoon Tinling."

Calderón found the Ibatan leading his nine children, whose ages ranged from 4 months to 15 years, a 12-year-old girl carrying her 5-year-old brother on her back, others tugging at an older man's skirt, and their mother carrying a sick infant weakened by rubbish infestation.

It was the 52 years old Estrella Ibatan, who in the confusion had been separated by the Ibatans from the ravages of the volcanic eruption and put on the Ibatan to pick up to safety.

The newspaper's life saving role was etched in the childhood memory so that in an overnight, now reconstructed 20 years later, it was a grateful 32-year-old Estrella Ibatan Bonifacio that the Ibatans found resettled in the model resettlement community of Sto. Village in Bataan town to Zambales as a top productive livelihood center.

Ecological game-changer

Pinatubo provided the ecological game-changer that would awaken people—from scientists to victims, from environmental advocates to food consumers, to the farmers who till the earth.

It is not by accident that the word Pinatubo literally means "made to grow" in Tagalog and Ilocano. In the indigenous Aeta, Pinatubo might instead mean cultivating grounds after having fled the lowlands to escape persecution by the Spaniards in colonial times.

This story have been in the mind of Gina Lopez when she returned to the country right after the 1991 eruption. Lopez, daughter of Eugenio Lopez Jr., founded the Philippine Ecology Movement (PEM) and the Philippine Ecology Center (PEC) in Bataan.

Lopez, who was then 37 years old, was a graduate of Harvard University and Stanford University, and was married to Manuel Elizalde Jr., son of the late Manuel Elizalde Sr., founder of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavales
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiaa
SPORTS

TNT, RoS rip Govs Cup foes

By Mayang R. Carrillo

TNT 'N TEXT pounded Alaska from the opening horn for a 101-79 victory in its PBA Governors' Cup debut to get the Gerard Sibaja network rolling at high speed last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

A 'text' post-game, argument between coach Chot Reyes and Alaska mentor Tim Cone marred the ending after the Tropang Texters triumphed to run up the score.

"I apologize, but unfortunately, the Texters opened up with a 17-9 run and never looked back.

Jimmy Alapag will be doubtful for the Texters in their next game after the 5-foot-6 spitfire scored his eight points in the third quarter.

Alapag's absence was hardly felt as TNT 'Text completely overshadowed Sam or Shaun's 13-16-9 triple-double NKD1 outfloor.

The Texters blew a 34-point lead in the second quarter to trail, 39-43, after the Aces dropped a 21-0 bomb, before regrouping in time to bounce back on top of the standings.

Thus Ao21 succeed the fifth league-opening bust in league history but it went for naught as the Express eventually nailed by 23, 111-91, late in the game after a triple by Sam or Shaun's look-alike-brother.

"I was a little worried," coach Yeng Guiao said of the Ao22 Mustang. "But I knew that the team has the ability to regroup."

Only Mariano's 22-9 win against Shell in 1999, Alaska's 26-8 run against Talk 'N Text in 2000 and Ono/Dalli and the Aces' 22-0 run opposite Magnolia in 2007 and Talk 'N Text again also in 2007, respectively topped the Ao21's effort last night.

Meanwhile, commissioner Chito Salud formally asked the 11-owner Board Line to extend the principals involved in its purchase of Barako Bull, a factor that could make or break the deal. Line also needs the nod of seven of the board members for the purchase to be approved.

RAIN OR SHINE'S Doug Kramer (top) tries on a fake by Denny Seigle of Air 21 and gets tagged for a foul in last night's game.

NLEX tries to sweep C. Lhuillier five today

By Cedrill T. Tupas

FIRED UP by their emphatic Game 2 victory, the NLEX Road Warriors hope to wrap up the fifth 3x3 League Foundation Cup today when they square off in front of the Cebuanas Lhuillier Gems in the Waves Sports Arena in Pasig City.

The Road Warriors took the series opener, 21-12, behind a third offensive game for its reunite story of a strong comeback by the Gems in their hyun, shutdown.

Game 1 was a physical encounter and NLEX coach Boyet Fernandez expects it to be a little more heated in today's showdown with the Gems' backs against the wall.

"We know it's going to be a lot tougher," said Fernandez, a former champion coach in the PBA with the now defunct Sta. Lucia Realty.

Fernandez had no complaints with the way his Road Warriors performed Wednesday. They suffocated the Gems' dreams with an airtight defense and used their athleticism to take full control of the match.

Not even the physical play by the Gems could stifle the Road Warriors' varied attack.

"Cebuana is a strong team," said Fernandez of the Gems, who scored 13 points off turnovers and 17 off turnovers.

"They have the right tools to launch a comeback and be in this series. So we have to be prepared and be more focused."

Ronald Pascual led the Road Warriors with 17 points and Cliff Hodge added 14 as NLEX drew contributions from almost everyone else on the squad.

By contrast, only Allen Mallari finished in double figures for the Gems.

The Gems, meanwhile, tried almost everything to unsettle the Road Warriors and Ariel Wayne, the rugged forward, just dodged a suspension for his decap down on NLEX standout Calvin Abueva.

Though he wasn't called for a flagrant foul, Abueva was assessed a P1,000 fine by league commissioner Chito Salud after the league reviewed the game tape.

MVP firm on TV5 offer; PBA schedules talks

MANGUIRAN

By Ronnie Harbuistina

TV5 II standing pat on the network's offer of P650 million cash to secure the Philippine Basketball Association TV franchise for five years starting next season.

The deal of the PBT million it had initially bid will come in the form of a structured campaign to promote and merchandise the pro league to attract dwindling crowds and a downturning in TV ratings. P700 million) and advertising spots for PBA member teams (P117 million).

"We are standing by our offer of P650 million cash," said network senior and business man-sportsman Manny V. Pangilinan in a solo phone interview with the Inquirer yesterday.

It's expected that with the last-minute withdrawal of MIO-CBN from the bid and TV5's offer, which did not conform to the Terms of Reference of the PBA, the bidding for the TV franchise was technically nullified.

Talk 'N Text governor Eddy Vargas clarified that under a failed bid there are two options available. Negotiate with the lone bidder, TV5, or call for a re-bidding.

Faced with the new TV5 proposal, the PBA board had initially directed commissioner Chito Salud to explore a possible co-production contract with ABS-CBN's Studio 23, where the games were telecast by Jolas' Sports in recent months, and Solar Sports, which is owned by Pangilinan.

But in yesterday's board meeting, Salud and the league decided to pursue further meetings with TV5 to clarify the terms. He said meetings with other networks were merely the league's Plan B in case talks with TV5 bogs down.

"The board wants to give TV5 every chance to consider the agreement with the PBA and that's why we are going to sit down with them at the earliest possible time, within the week if possible," said Salud.

No pro stint yet for Gilas' Tiu

By Jane Navarro

A SUPER first-round catch, Scout Gilas skipper Dodo Tiu remains undecided on whether or not to join the coming PBA Rookie Draft.

While the prospect of turning pro seems tempting, the 6-foot shooting guard out of Ateneo said he wants to focus on the national team's quest for a spot in the 2020 London Olympics.

"It's hard to decide," said Tiu, who led the Blue Eagles' first of three consecutive championships in the UAAP in 2008.

"If the Gilas program continues until after the 2020 Olympics, I don't mind staying on because it's always my dream to play for the national team," added Tiu, who is also a television host and part-time commercial model.

The PBA draft is two months away and Scout Gilas players headed by Tiu, JV Casio, Mario Lomotan, Moe Banal, Chris Lutz, Mark Borrera, Dylan Ababou, Jason Ballesteros are prime prospects if they decide to turn pro.

The Nationals are on the climb of preparation for the Fiba Asia Championship from Sept. 15 to 25 in Wuhan, China, where the champion books a ticket to London.

After finishing fourth in the Fiba Asia Championship in Changsha, China in 2015, Gilas qualified for the Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Turkey and Portugal next month.

Before Wuhan, Scout Gilas will also play in the Jones Cup in Taipei from Aug. 4 to 14 where some of the top countries in the Fiba Asia are set to compete.

"This preparation is ultimately centered to the Fiba Asia Championship and we will need these tournaments to get more international experience and toughen up," said Tiu, who added he also wants to join the national team in the 2017 Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur.

"If I make the SEAGAMES, I'd love to also play in the SEA Games," said Tiu. "But it depends if the SBP and coach Norman (Black) want me to be part of the team."

NBA: A season of secret stardom

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

visibility spring from conscientiousness

Did he ever smile and pump the air after that astonishing left-hand stab in Game 5 that punctuated their unanimous Finals MVP selection?

It seems to be part of the Warriors' role to react solemnly, a key ethic just reinforced communion bread, after seeing something with more magical shots from both clubs and King James.

Yes, most of the Warriors' heroics were often mundane.

Meanwhile, not there in the cities' end, there was the expectation of the King LeBron James exploding after a hard basket, a screaming tyrant with his dangling monster mouthpiece.

There was this suspicion James

Discovery Perlas five looks a Fiba Asia tourney goner

By Jane Navarro

DANCE CHAMPS Hamanta Abella, a businesswoman from Bataan, and Basilio Espinosa are all smiles after a 6th place finish in a Mind Over Body cancer battle support event held in the Bay Area Cultural Festival at the Empress Ballroom in the Nissar Complex, Blackpool, UK recently. The duo has received recognition in ballroom dancing competitions in Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, US and the Philippines and competed against best from 22 other countries in Blackpool, the most prestigious ballroom competition in the world.

Iñigo leads PH Seniors as Iggy flops

PHOTO BY JOEY DALUMPINES

FOCUSED: President Fidel V. Ramos hits the ceremonial drive to open the tournament.

PINOT ISNIO settled for a three-over 75 but still managed with a one-stroke lead yesterday as five-time champion Iggy Clarencillo grasped for turns at the start of the Philippine Senior Amateur Golf Championships at Riviera's Couples course in Silang, Cavite, yesterday.

Iñigo joined on the lone with the same number of bogeys on the first nine holes but his ground three holes coming home for nines of 36-39 to the par-72 layout he calls home.

He took a one-stroke lead over Pirovic de los Santos and Cangrill's Jose Abel Hechanova while Tony Oliver, also of Lindenberg, stood a stroke behind at 77.

Former national champion and last year's runner-up Pastelo Gatan of Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club also wrested coming home, bogeying the last two holes for a 78 to drop into a tie with Cangrill's Bally Vera and Anthony Rosit-San of Eagle Ridge.

Dave Hernandez, also of Cangrill, made a 79 even as Clarencillo, seeking to extend his current satin run in the annual event to six, found the going tough and finished seven strokes off the pace.

He had six bogeys and two double bogeys in his nines of 40-42 although the top Alabang bet is expected to bounce back today and pull himself in contention heading to the last 36 holes of the event organized and conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Earlier, former Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and MAAP president Leandro Mendoza hit the ceremonial drive to kick off the year's edition.

Ilaty Katigbak and Gilbert Bascoli carded identical 77s to share the lead in Category B (50-54), two shots clear of Ferdie Juarez, who had an 80, while Manuel Diaz shot an 83 to score a one-stroke lead over Sir Ocella, who had an 84 in Category II (55-59).

Mario Lagos submitted an 86 to rank third while Ernie Caliwada stood two shots further back at 88.

Baseball shake-up looming

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE WINDS of change is finally blowing for Philippine baseball.

In a bold move, the sport's stakeholders yesterday held a summit and formed an ad hoc committee that will scrutinize the membership rules of the Philippine Amateur Baseball Association in part of the ways for an election of a new set of board members and officials.

Pablo Cojuangco, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee mandated meeting and declared his intention to step down after leading the association for 16 years.

"I really wanted to retire, I'm already tired," said Cojuangco. "But there are projects I have started for this year, so maybe not (this election) year-end, mid-December."

The stakeholders—most of them current non-Pablo members...are not inclined to allow him to step as Pablo died but expressed desire to name him as "honorary chairman."

Richard Cruz, manager of the Baseball Philippines' back-to-back champion Manila Sharks, said the outcome of the meeting will be submitted to the POC next week.

"We'll discuss who can apply for membership and who is eligible to vote for directors," said Cruz who was among the more than 30 stakeholders who attended the summit held at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

He said elections might take place in the next summit probably in September.

"We are happy with what happened today but of course the results will depend on which steps are taken," said Baseball Philippines' Leslie Serrano.

Quirk or not, Donald leads US Open field

DONALD: Flynn don't contend, you don't have a chance to win. →

By Nancy B. Canilo

RUTHERFORD, Maryland—Luke Donald hasn't won a salvable hit, just two stroke play tournaments in the last five years, but he doesn't feel the ball that far.

Quite atypical for the No. 1 player in the world.

The 33-year-old Englishman, who is ranked 151st on the PGA Tour in driving distance, does indeed carry the mantle of the planet's top golfer into this week's US Open.

Some might call it a quirk of the system. Others consider it a victory for consistency over circumstance, and a triumph of precision over power.

"It's refreshing to see that the game is not being out-powered," defending champion Graeme McDowell said Tuesday. "I'm not that far but always been unbelievably, and I think that's one of the keys. I always know he had a great wedge game and a great short game and a solid putting stroke to the lot, so he's really got his game polished up and driving it a lot better, and he's really got the whole package now."

Donald is the fourth player to hold the top spot in the last 12 months, a revolving door made possible by Tiger Woods' personal problems and injuries. He ranked ahead of Lee Westwood two weeks ago by beating his countryman in a playoff at the BMW PGA Championship in England, achieving a milestone he first seriously—and perhaps overzealously—considered a possibility some five years ago.

"It probably wasn't the right time/set, in a way," Donald said. "I pressed too hard and didn't do things happen and get upset at myself when things weren't perfect. And in the last few years I've just tried to go back to basics about just trying to improve every day, just trying to get a little bit better at every component in my game, just seeing that there are no limits to the margin of everything I do."

There are two ways to look at Donald's stats: his remarkable run of top-10 finishes in 15 of his last 16 events, including another play-off loss to Westwood at the Dubai Desert Classic, or both the 25- and European tours. Does this event as a string of success, or a series of lost opportunities?

"Certainly if you're not in contention, you don't have a chance to win," Donald said. AP

PAL brings back Ladies Interclub this October

By Nancy B. Canilo

THE LADIES' version of the Philippine Airlines Interclub will make a comeback after a 25-year absence when Rancho Palos Verdes in Davao hosts the event from Oct. 11 to 14.

Angie Ariel "Sho Shotgun," the tournament is expected to lure the finest female shotmakers in the country.

"We are reviving the PAL Ladies' Interclub to give amateur lady golfers the same excitement, competitive play and strong camaraderie cultivated in the 60-year-old Men's Interclub," Irma Mae Flores, chair of the event, said in yesterday's launch.

The first team captains' meeting will be held Aug. 4 and PAL is still accepting entries from any golf club in the Philippines and abroad.

Inquiries can be routed through (02) 7775929 or lalaine_naron@pal.com.ph.

The last time the event was held was in 1986 when host from Camp Aguinaldo won in Cebu. Villamor Golf Club won the champion the previous year.

SPORTSWATCH

Bayanihang bikefest slated

THE BONAL PODIUM riders, including three-times Tour champions, will spearhead the star-studded Bonalcom Cycling Day on June 19 in Mandaluyong, Pangasinan.

Led by co-champions Ahmel Sumrad, Santi Bamaniwa and Joel Dalayon, the bikefest will be run in two categories sponsored by Owner TJ Quiambao, president and CEO of Bonalcom Corp.

The race, part of Bonalcom's 40th-year anniversary, will be flagged off by Mayor Ricardo Cervantes and Quiambao.

It will cover 100 km with at least 80 riders in attendance, offering a total purse of P 100,000.

Registered to cycling legend Jesus A. Garcia Jr., Pangasinan Rep. Amado T. Espino Jr. will be the guest of honor during the awarding ceremonies.

RINGS FOR A DAY: Barangay Ginebra's players try to toss the ring of championship during a ceremony held for Pinoy Pinoy in Mariveles, Manila. The San Miguel Beermen will have their turn days after they're in celebration of Ginebra's San Miguel's "Bahay Ginebra, Bahay Bida Live Game Show—Ginebrangan ng mga Bida at Idol." Contestant Rhonda Gonzales and audience partner Jolben Moreno took home a combined P1.4 DPO plan, a new refrigerator, a batch of rice, grocery items and the jackpot prize of P1 00,000 each after beating out other contestants. The live game show is going to Bulacan, Batangas, on June 25.

Florendo eyes third GT win

THE 2011 Hakkarina Philippines GT Championship Series will hold the first leg of the Batangas Racing Circuit on Sunday.

Vincent Florendo of Davao is seeking his third straight win against equally tough rivals in the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Florendo ranked fastest in the Time Trial and GT Main Race final but was relying heavily on the head for the 20-lap event and the GT 2000 class with a total of 100 points. Defending champion Wilfredo Tan is a second with 60 points.

NOV. 12 TRILOGY

Marquez vows he won't run vs Pacquiao

By Ronnie Mallicerina

MEXICAN LEGEND Juan Manuel Marquez has promised to go toe-to-toe with pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao in the third fight of their eagerly awaited trilogy at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Nov. 12.

In a telephone conversation with a popular sports show host, Marquez said "it (the fight) will definitely not be like the last...guess Shane Mosley fight where Mosley kept running. At least as I can, I am going to fight him toe-to-toe and give the people what they want."

Marquez, known as a counter-puncher, conceded that their third encounter is going to be harder than their first two meetings where Marquez claimed he was robbed of victory.

In their first bout on May 8, 2004 Marquez unleashed a storm after Pacquiao dropped him three times in the opening round. Judge Burt Clements, who scored it a 113-113 draw, later admitted he scored the first round 10-7 when he should have scored it 10-8 like the two other judges because of the three knockdowns.

Pacquiao won the rematch on March 15, 2008 by split decision with a third round knockdown making the difference.

"I think this is going to be the hardest fight between the two of us and that's why I am going to prepare (for harder) I even have hard sparrings."

He added that he has "a mythical team to work on my power and I intend to match fab (Pacquiao's) power."

Marquez, who will train in Mexico under Hall of Fame trainer Ignacio "Nacho" Beristain, is gearing up for a rematch against Colombian southpaw Gilet Ramos.

Serena challenges Murray: Karaoke!

EASTBOURNE, England—It started out as a joke on past this year, but now Serena Williams says she's planning to have Andy Murray sing karaoke at Wimbledon.

During a chat of inconsistent ruts in England on hosting Murray who was playing at Queen's, asked his Twitter followers what the player could do to entertain the fans, suggesting "Karaoke would be great!!"

Serena, who was being kept off the practice court at Eastbourne, revealed she had a favorable karaoke machine with her and tried to communicate Murray to join her in singing session.

"omg I LOVE karaoke!!! Let's do it on turn delays! What's your go to song?? I'm in!!!!!! Lets get it!" she tweeted.

And after winning her opening match at Eastbourne on Tuesday, Williams was still keen, promising: "We'll do it at Wimbledon. I'll bring it and I'll force him to sing."

Murray said his song of choice would be 1980's "Losing My Religion," Williams' score for "Straight Outta Compton" by NWA.

It wouldn't be the first musical interlude for Wimbledon. In 1996, English singer Cliff Richard gave an impromptu performance on Centre Court during a rain delay. His backup singers were Martina Hingis, Pete Sampras, Goran Ivanisevic and Conchita Martinez. AP

AATTI Escalante tags another sweep.

Escalante bags back-to-back karting victory at Boomland

RAUL ESCALANTE of Tanauan Racing behind notched his second straight sweep recently to the third leg of the 2011 Hankook Karting Series Race at the Boomland Gate Clark of the CCP Complex.

The wins catapulted Escalante, a De La Salle Grade 7 student, to sole leadership in the Formula SL Novice class.

Escalante's feat was a big improvement from his fourth place debut in the said class after clinching the Wins 2KDE crowns last season. He now holds a total of 204 points, just two points ahead of erstwhile leader Sacha Soliman.

"It's quite tough at the start, but coach Mike's (Tanauan) instructions further boosted my confidence despite the high-speed enclosed track and the pressure from equally talented rivals," said Escalante, who is sponsored by Boomland Racing School, Castrol and Goldex.

In all three races, Raul broke away from the pack and wound up with no less than a six-second margin over the nearest rap.

The qualifying heat saw Escalante win by 6.6 seconds over Pelletaro, a four-lap repeat of in the Pro Final.

Escalante again proved his consistency in the finals as he wrapped up the 20-lap race in 14 minutes and 26.881 seconds.

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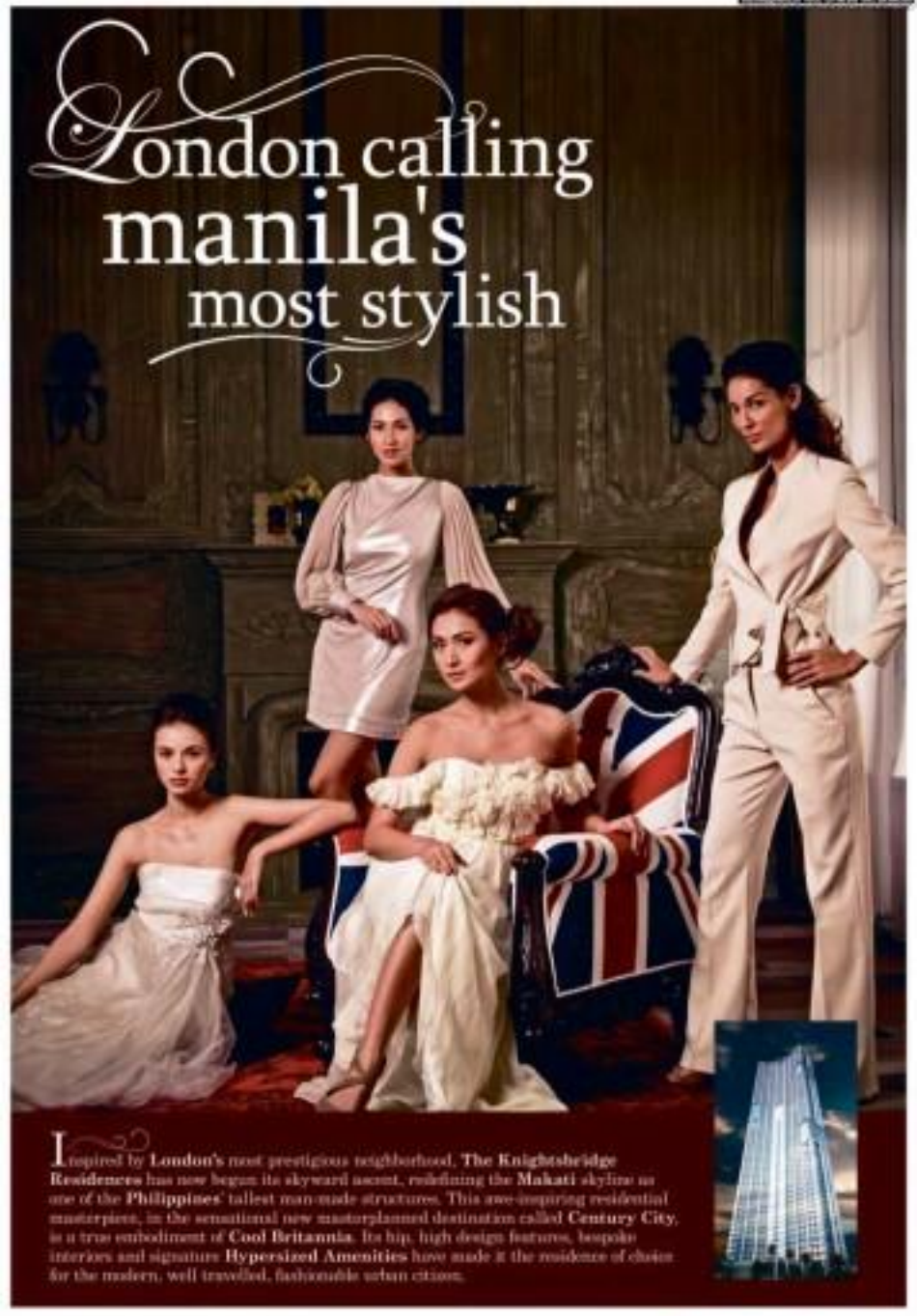

Inspired by **London's** most prestigious neighborhood, **The Knightsbridge Residences** has now begun its skyward ascent, redefining the **Makati** skyline as one of the **Philippines'** tallest man-made structures. This awe-inspiring residential masterpiece, in the sensational new masterplanned destination called **Century City**, is a true embodiment of **Cool Britannia**. Its hip, high design features, bespoke interiors and signature **Hypersized Amenities** have made it the residence of choice for the modern, well travelled, fashionable urban citizen.

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DID YOU KNOW

[illegible] a total of [illegible] road accidents in Metro Manila in the first quarter of this year, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's Metro Manila Accident Reporting and Analysis System. This meant that from January to March, there were a daily average of 205 road accidents.

Zaharah Dundalo, Inquirer Research

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Perks for inmates get warden fired

'Shabu,' air-con, cell phones found in cells

By DJ Yap

ONE CELL had a concealed air-conditioner mounted on the toilet wall.

Some prisoners had cell phones and DVD players while others pulled sachets of "shabu" or methamphetamine hydrochloride.

The warden of the Manila City Jail annex in Bicutan, Taguig City, was relieved of his post yesterday after hidden camera footage showed Justice Secretary Leila M. Delos[illegible] revealed these shocking perks for the inmates.

"The warden has been relieved immediately and the entire team guarding the facility will be replaced as the situation possible time," Delos[illegible]

Asked to name the [illegible] taken by the TV crew revealed "irregularities" [illegible] cell phones/ DVD players and ... an air-conditioner [illegible] in a portion of one of the cells." There are over 200 prisoners in the facility which is adjacent to the Metro Manila District Jail.

"There was also footage of [illegible] matter (containing drugs and having a pot session," he said in a text message. But contacted later by phone, Delos[illegible] clarified that the inmates were not caught sniffing drugs although [illegible] containing shabu were found in their possession.

He said he could not imagine how the air-conditioner had been smuggled into the facility and how it had been installed, considering that the cell was not enclosed.

"They probably installed [illegible]" to insulate the unit, the bride said in a phone interview.

The secretary could not say how many cells and inmates enjoyed the privileges, adding that he guessed a drug operator was behind it. "He had a phone, so obviously he could reach his contacts outside," he said without naming suspects.

Delos[illegible] added that [illegible] aide after he viewed the footage, he instructed the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to conduct a surprise inspection of the facility led by BJMP deputy chief for administration Deone Manuel.

"The air-conditioner was ejected and [illegible] and cell phones and DVD players were confiscated," Delos[illegible] told the Inquirer.

He said cases would be filed against the erring jail officers while Lacuna would be replaced by Supt. Nestor Primicias.

Delos[illegible] added that while he was not fully [illegible] by the discovery of the privileges, he was alarmed that jail officers had turned a blind eye to the Valium [illegible] possessed by prisoners.

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Car thieves kill, run over woman in QC

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A MAYAO-OLD woman who was on her way to a yoga class was shot and run over by two men who took off with her car in the morning, Quezon City, yesterday morning.

The brutal slaying of Teresa Torres came just days after the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) announced the arrest of five suspected car thieves.

This time, however, the police said they had yet to come up with leads on the latest carjacking case.

The victim was about to get out of her car, a new red Hyundai Accent without any plate number, in front of the Bukluran Kasambahay Center Inc. on Tomas Morato Avenue when two men approached and demanded the keys to the vehicle.

When Torres resisted and shouted for help, the two men shot her, witnesses told the police.

After she was shot, she fell in front of the vehicle and was also run over by (the) fleeing suspects," the police said.

Her classmates in the meditation school said they found a suspension mobile and school for help.

The first one who saw the victim in the school to see what was going on saw Torres lying on the street and her car speeding off toward Tomas Morato.

One officer [illegible] Gregorio Moreno said the victim, who sustained a gunshot wound to the right cheek and eight stabs, died on the spot.

The [illegible] tried to get a comment from QCPD director Chief Supt. George Regis but was told that he was in a meeting.

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Ex-Pasay mayor faces raps for mall project

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER Pasay City Mayor Pimentel "Pimmy" Trinidad is facing charges for his participation in the allegedly anomalous bidding for the construction of the P1.68-million Pasay City Mall and Market.

Acting Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro also ordered the filing of charges against former city councilor Jose Antonio Nonat and bids and awards committee (BAC) representatives Josefino Mendiola and Alexander Ramos for violating the original law in relation to the government procurement act, and the revised penal code provision against exercising duties beyond the required period.

The Office of the Ombudsman said Trinidad led the Pasay City BAC that awarded the project to Ramco Construction Inc., the low bidder, in January 2004.

Under the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the procurement law, the head of the procuring agency is not allowed to sit as a member of the BAC, it said.

The invitation to prequalify bidders for the project was issued on Oct. 3, 2003, five days before the IRR took effect. But the publication of the invitation was postponed pending the city council's approval of an ordinance providing the budget for the project.

The ordinance was issued on Oct. 23, 2003. Trinidad issued a second invitation to prequalify and bid on Oct. 25.

On January 2004, Trinidad convened a meeting with members of the previous BAC.

According to the Office of the Ombudsman, members of the new BAC constituted on Dec. 20, 2003 should have conducted the bidding, and not the old BAC.

FUTURE STUNT MEN
A group of young boys in the different poses as they jump into the Pasig River Hot roaster prevailed over most party's of the metropolis yesterday despite weatherman's warning about another typhoon in the next few days.

METROBRIEFS

3 Chinese face deportation

THE BUREAU of Immigration (BI) yesterday said it had taken into custody three Manila-based Chinese jewelers who were arrested by the police for running a P300-million investment scheme.

Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. issued the order committing Jin Yao Chan, Lin Yea Pin and Chen Chuan Ding to the immigration detention facility in Bicutan, Taguig City, after they were found to be using spurious immigration documents in stay in the country. David also directed the BI legal division to institute summary deportation proceedings against the aliens for violating the Philippine immigration act. "However, they will remain in jail pending resolution by the court of the criminal complaint that was filed against them," he said. The three Chinese were busted June 10 in the BI on June 9 by the commercial complex and Detection Group based on the complaint of Rodolfo Mendoza who accused them of talking to deliver the jewelry he bought from them for P200,000. **Jamaica Aning**

Man found dead

MAKATI policemen have yet to establish the motive behind the killing of a cab driver found who was found with multiple stab wounds inside his parked room on Governor Street in Barangay Pinagkaisahan yesterday afternoon. Police said Marvin Labajan, 29, was naked when he was found lying on his bed in a pool of blood in side his room. According to initial investigation, the victim sustained 41 stab wounds in different parts of his body. His body was discovered by a room caretaker Evangeline Padilla, at around 12:30 p.m. **Tina G. Santos**

Air pollution level down in Metro Manila

By Tarra Quismundo

THE AIR pollution level in Metro Manila has decreased since last year amid government's continuing efforts to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and a crackdown on smoke belchers.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) revealed encouraging figures yesterday even as the metropolis has yet to attain the prescribed maximum level of air pollutants, pegged at 90 mg/Ncm (mini ol suspended particles).

"We have hardly achieved the prescribed guidance values but levels are going down," DENR-EMB Assistant Director Gilbert Gonzales said.

On the second day of a Clean Air Act forum at the DENR yesterday, Gonzales said the amount of total suspended particulates (TSP) in Metro Manila's air was measured at 123 mg/Ncm last April, from 158 mg/Ncm in July of last year.

Figures have been alternately rising and dipping since last year, but levels in the first four months of the year showed some improvement, with February's 120 mg/Ncm the lowest recorded so far in 2011.

The record low since the second half of last year was September, when 109 mg/Ncm were recorded in the air. The high-traffic holiday month of December had the dirtiest air, with some 152 mg/Ncm.

Gonzales said the figures showed a "significant improvement" from last year.

"It is everybody's duty to keep our air clean. Pollution control can only be effective when all sectors of society work together," he added.

Under the 22-year-old Clean Air Act, the government undertook antipollution measures, including the gradual switch to high-traffic fuels, a structured antismoke-belching campaign and vehicle volume reduction schemes for public and private vehicles.

Gonzales said the government is acquiring 16 more vehicle emission testing machines for distribution to transport agencies and local government units to boost antismoke belching operations.

Ma. Cristina Solano, assistant general manager for planning at the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, said Metro Manila's air quality remains a constant health threat to its roughly 11.6 million residents.

Woman shot dead on QC's 'killer highway'

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A WOMAN was gunned down by masked men wielding high-powered firearms on Commonwealth avenue, also known as the "killer highway" on Tuesday night.

Chief Insp. Rodolfo Marcelo, chief of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, identified the victim as Cheryl Agnes Sarmiento, 39, an event organizer.

"We have yet to determine the motive and we are looking into all possible angles and leads," Marcelo said.

He added that one of the angles they were looking at was that the victim might have been mistaken for someone else.

According to him, Sarmiento was driving her husband's car, a Toyota Altis, when she was killed. Her husband is an official of a gas company.

The police said that the shooting occurred at around 9:10 p.m. on Tuesday in front of a gasoline station on Commonwealth Avenue corner Regalado Street in Fairview, Quezon City.

The victim, who was alone in the car, had stopped at the intersection and was about to turn left when three men dressed in bonuses and black jackets alighted from a van and fired at her vehicle.

A spent bullet's (PNP) forensic lieutenant said that based on witnesses' accounts, the men who were armed with M-16 rifles and pistols gave fired at least 50 times at the victim's vehicle.

Sarmiento was hit several times and died on the spot.

The police said they had yet to talk to her husband.

A SCENE of the crime operative looks at the spent shells recovered at the scene of the incident which were found outside the car of a woman who was killed in an ambush in Commonwealth Avenue.

DOH, Caloocan officials sign pact to fight dreaded dengue

By Hiza Cubeja

IN ANTICIPATION of an increase in the number of dengue cases, the Department of Health (DOH) signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with barangay officials in Caloocan City on the first ever "Anti-Dengue Day" as part of efforts to intensify the campaign against the dreaded mosquito-borne disease.

Under the MOA, all of the city's barangays agreed to allocate one percent of their internal revenue allotment (IRA) for the campaign against dengue in their respective areas.

The barangay officials, led by Liga ng mga Barangay president and Councilor BJ Echiverri, promised to embark on a massive awareness campaign, regular cleanup operations and a mosquito-control program.

According to the city's public information office, the mosquito-borne disease was "a threat in the city" since each barangay has been spending money for its antidengue campaign, with the amount being decided by local officials.

In satisfaction of the first Asean Dengue Day, representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), DOH and the city government held a motorcade around the city to teach residents how they can avoid the disease.

In Marikina City, officials said that residents already know how to prevent dengue in their homes.

According to Dr. Rosalyn Bernardo, Marikina assistant city health officer, since dengue is a year-long threat, her office has been implementing a outdoor campaign against the disease since the first of the year.

"Far from the customary belief, dengue isn't only a seasonal disease. It poses a threat all-year round, first in Marikina, we are partners with our campaigns in order to eliminate the said disease," she said in a statement.

5,188 get warning for lighting up

By Tina G. Santos

MORE than 5,000 smokers have received a warning from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) in line with its campaign against smoking in public places.

From May 31 to June 14, a total of 5,166 smokers were given warnings by MMDA personnel who roved around public areas.

But starting July 1, MMDA enforcement officers will start issuing tickets to smokers spotted in public places within the premises of Metro Manilas major and secondary roads.

The public places include bus and jeepney terminals, loading and unloading bays, footbridges, schools, hospitals, parish recreation centers and government offices.

First-time violators will be fined P500.

What was Ortega gunman's motive?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

GMA will not do anything drastic against the Philippines in the Spratley dispute now that the US has given the assurance it would side with us if push comes to shove.

But just because of US assurances, we should no longer seek diplomatic means to settle our differences with China.

Our friendship with China will both benefit us and our fellow Asian nation.

China needs copper, nickel, iron mineral and lumber.

Retired Army Gen. Victor Corpus, in his book "America's Dirty War (I would Think)," points out that China sources for industrial, precious and earth metals that are found in great abundance in the Philippines.

Let's exchange goods, instead of bullets, with China.

* * *

President Noy is beginning to sound like a broken record in calibrating his predecessor Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, for manslaughter.

In his inaugural address, Noy reproach at the Apostolic Nuncio to Kuwait, Cavite, Mr. Aguilos Aguilos lashed out at the irregularities committed during Gloria's time.

Yes, the Arroyo administration plundered the country, but everybody—perhaps even a 7-year-old kid—knows that.

Why does PNoy keep mentioning what has become very obvious?

* * *

The President aims to make the country corruption-free during the remaining years of his term.

That's a tall order. Tall on talk, short on action.

If PNoy really means business, a good chunk of his generation must go.

Now, how come the allegedly most corrupt collector of the Bureau of Customs is still in his post?

His collector ignominiously has a huge mansion (estimated worth P300 million) at 467 Officers Village in Ayala Southvale and drives luxury cars, like a Lamborghini and a Mercedes Benz, to work.

How come another customs official, Jose Barbergas, who was recently reinstated by the Office of the Ombudsman in a "midnight" decision, has been given a lucrative position in the bureau—that of intelligence division chief of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service?

My customs sources say Barbergas was placed in that position because of an alleged promise he made to Customs Commissioner Lito Alvarez.

Incidentally, Alvarez allegedly told a Malacañang official that he would carry on with a standard practice in what was done in the past.

But he was reportedly scolded for even bringing up the topic.

* * *

The dropping of the murder case against former Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and five others tagged in the killing of broadcaster and environmentalist activist Gerry Ortega by the Department of Justice raised eyebrows.

Only the gunman and his companions, as well as Reyes' former security aide, are being charged with the murder.

The acquittal of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, who once served as Reyes' election lawyer, has been related with the dropping of murder charges against the ex-governor.

* * *

Now, what would be the motive of the gunman and his pals—who were all from Puerto Princesa personnel of Reyes' former bodyguard, in killing Ortega?

Ortega had been a pain in the neck for Reyes.

The former governor had been the subject of Ortega's attacks in his radio commentaries for the alleged misuse of the multi-billion peso Malampaya fund.

Reyes, naturally, was the suspect of many criminal cases since most of the people were charged with him, including the former provincial official who signed the documents.

Former provincial administrator Romeo Jalosjos, whose 45 children posed was used in killing the popular radio commentator and environment advocate, was acquitted along with Reyes.

METRO
Citizen's Call
NEW
• Overtakes on the road by a driver illegally using a "wang wang" (siren)?
• Garbage dumped on your street outside your door?
• Street slippage known on the street where you live?
• Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
• Need by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact to your community?
• Get stuck in potholes?
• Fed up with cussing and beating neighbors?
• Is there an overlying rule meant to your neighborhood?
• Insight/knowledge/tips on your way to work?
JUST TEXT
to 4467
INQUIRER

Defector bares Burma's secret nuke program

PASSUNTUN—Among the hundreds of thousands who have fled Burma (Myanmar) and its iron-wind rulers over the seven-plus-odd years of junta rule, few claims be carried as high, or with as firm evidence of a hidden nuclear weapons program.

The defector Sai Thein Win's account of his three years working at two clandestine factories, and the route he boasted to travel, brought with him, to no small-ing gun, it has deepened suspicions, however, that Burma's xenophobic military leaders hasten that an atomic deterrent.

His allegations touch on a matter that is bound to trouble as Burma tries to many international favor and end sanctions. While human rights and democracy have dominated Western attention to Burma, there have also been misgivings about its growing ties with North Korea, a suspected maker of proliferation (that story here exposed missile technology to Burma.

In late May, a US envoy discovery intercepted a North Korean vessel, suspected in its carrying a cargo that violated UN sanctions against Pyongyang, US officials say. A Washington-based foreign diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said the cargo was suspected to be weapons or missiles and heading to Burma. The ship turned back to North Korea.

Burma has tried to ease international suspicions that it has an illicit nuclear program. Two weeks ago, after a visit by US Sen. John McCain, it announced that it was abiding by an agreement that would make more also said that it had halted arrangements for nuclear research with Russia for its educational and health sectors. It said the "international community may misunderstand Burma over the issue."

Earlier, the plans to build a research reactor with Russian help, first mooted in 2000, never have gotten off the ground, apparently because of persistent problems and because Burma, a signatory to the nonproliferation treaty, has refused to sign an additional IAEA protocol with the UN nuclear-watchdog agency be more rooting such a program.

Perhaps of greater concern is what Burma may have been possessing completely under the radar.

Sai Thein Win, 33, an army major and mechanical engineer, has provided the most persuasive proof to date of a secret nuclear program. Such allegations are routinely dismissed as being based in exhaustion and are treated with some skepticism because of Burma's dearth of trained physicists and technicians.

Sai Thein Win left Myanmar in January 2010 and appeared in a band-hitting documentary filmed by the Democratic Voice of Burma, an exile media network. Burma swiftly denied it was working nuclear weapons, but its condemnation of "the defector as an army deserter was fled that he served in the military and had undertaken postgraduate engineering studies in Russia.

He spent five years at Moscow State Technical University studying liquid-fueled rockets—explosive design for missiles. He remained to The Associated Press that before leaving for Russia, he attended a May 2001 address to some 300 officers by Burma's then second-ranking general, Maung Aye, at the National Defense College in Rangoon.

"He said they wanted us to study about rockets and nuclear weapons. They also said they needed weapons and long-range missiles to protect the country," Sai Thein Win said.

After returning to Burma, he said he worked for a year in a military research center, which managed the nuclear effort. He then spent three years at two factories in the western township of Myaing and in the northern township of Pyin Oo Lwin that he says attempted to make equipment for an enrichment program, using enrichment program machinery from Germany and Singapore.

He said he initially believed in the program he worked on but became increasingly disillusioned with it. He said he managed and a source of money, driven by the ruling generals' desire for power, and it was destructive fail. AP

QANTAS planes at the start of national flights at Perth's domestic airport terminal are cancelled due to the Chile volcano dust clouds. Travel chaos from the Chile ash cloud spread to Western Australia. AP

House leader adds to calls for sexting legislator to quit

PASSUNTUN—The leader of the US House of Representatives on Sunday joined President Barack Obama and a chorus of other Democrats in suggesting that a congressman at the center of a sex scandal resign.

A member of top Authority Skinner's New York delegation and she expects him to quit soon.

Speaker John Boehner, a Republican who has let Democratic results with Weiner's sexually charged messages and photos to several women, responded with a one-word answer when reporters asked whether Weiner should quit.

"Yes," he responded.

The crumbs of raunchy photos and other revelations about the 46-year-old married congressman has been a dominant for Democrats seeking an edge as they look ahead to the November 2012 elections hoping to recapture a majority in the House.

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, a New York Democrat, told reporters, "Hopefully, we are hearing he might resign in a couple of days." She did not say how she learned that Weiner may soon back in under the pressure.

Weiner is seeking professional help at an undisclosed location. His wife, Huma Abedin, is due back from an overseas trip early Wednesday.

Rep. Bob Andrews, a Democrat, said after a meeting of all House Democrats that 90 percent of the morning consensus energy press. He said Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi repeated her past statements. Pelosi has called for Weiner to resign.

Andrews said there was no discussion of stripping Weiner of his assignment on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Obama's White muscle could help Democrats try- ing to oust Weiner.

"I can tell you that if it was me, I would resign," Obama told NBC television's "Today" show Tuesday. His most recent comments were made available on Monday night. AP

Chilean volcano halts more flights

BUENOS AIRES—The cloud of ash spewing from a volcano in Chile grounded more flights on Sunday in South America, forcing Peru's president-elect to cross over by boat and stranding fans on the eve of the continent's football championship.

The schedule of most months Copa America could be altered if the ash cloud from Chile's volcano forces grounding flights, Argentine Football Association President Julio Grondona said.

"We're watching it closely and it's for sure that teams are not ready to come in Buenos Aires," Grondona told Argentine broadcaster Radio 10. "The tournament starts July 1 and we hope that within five or six days the problem with the ash will not exist."

Peruvian President-elect Ollanta Humala, who met with Argentine President Cristina Fernandez on Tuesday, was forced to take a boat across the Rio de la Plata from Montevideo, Uruguay, to Buenos Aires on Monday because flights were grounded.

The main international airports in Argentina and Uruguay were closed because of ash from Chile's Cordon Caulle volcano, while across the Pacific flights resumed over Australia's mainland on the ash drifted.

The cloud of fine grit can damage airplane engines and it had disrupted hundreds of flights since the volcano began erupting June 4. In some instances in Chile, about 4,000 people have been evacuated from their homes.

Hundreds of passengers were stuck in terminals as flights remained grounded at Buenos Aires' main airports.

Many of those forced to change their travel plans have been tourists, and resorts in the mountains of Patagonia that have been blanketed with ash say they expect major losses due to the death of visitors.

Organizers of the Copa America weren't the only ones worried about the possible affects on a football tournament. Organizers of the club-level Copa Libertadores had talked of delaying Wednesday's match in Uruguay between Brazil's Santos and Uruguay's Penarol due the lack of flights, but the Brazilians managed to arrive on Tuesday.

In Australia, Virgin Australia and national carriers Qantas and they will ground flights to the western city of Perth on Wednesday afternoon because of the ash cloud—an announcement that came just as mainland air travel was getting back to normal following four days of disruptions.

The ash from a Chilean volcano has forced Qantas and budget airlines Jetstar and Tiger to cancel flights to and from the inland state of Tasmania and New Zealand since Sunday. The southern cities of Melbourne and Adelaide were also affected. AP

Help your child get ready for school

Whether kids anticipate or dread the coming of June, they all bring with them one common thing on the first day of the school year: jitters. You can only imagine the silent and questions ruminating in their heads. Will I make friends? Will I have an easy time me? I don't want to be bullied! What if I don't understand the lessons? School is hard!

Kids face many pressures in going back to school than it seems. Many parents prefer to strap it off, thinking that it will only last for the first few weeks — unknowing that such stress may have an effect on their kids' school year may progress.

As the days draw closer to the opening of another school year, most kids see the days closing on summer vacation — where time for all sorts of fun seems to never end. Here comes a new set of rules, routines, homework, tests, personalities, responsibilities and total life the stress!

But there are those who feel even more motivated at the thought of new challenges — those who don't mind months of being locked in routine. For adventure, the bright side, the future students, the confident ones — do you notice how they are always excited for school? Do you ever wonder what makes the difference?

Some kids enjoy embracing the challenge of learning new things and engaging new skills because they are well supported with supplementary programs to make them more positive on situations where most kids will find difficulty, like advancing to a higher grade level through self-learning.

With learners, self-learning is defined as the ability to achieve goals that are beyond their grade level independently. This is the real goal of learning as an educational method — to equip students with the necessary skills to progress on their own pace. This self-learning makes way for confidence that encourages both to have genuine interest the learning.

Kumon achieves this by first determining the child's "learning level" of study and then assigning them the work right level to achieve this level where a child is able to advance through learning without constant supervision.

More than 50 years ago, Toru Kumon developed a self-learning educational method that helped his son Takashi think in second grader's to master the fear of Math. This same method is now helping millions of students worldwide to master their fear too.

Students who have higher self-esteem shows in the way they perceive school work, their accomplishments and even in their social skills.

Kumon believes that every child is an achiever if carry more about self-learning, confidence, and how you can help your child have a better learning experience, visit http://ph.kumon.com/about.aspx or call (02) 885-4228.

Advt

Sun going quiet, sunspots may disappear for years or decades

WASHINGTON—US scientists say the familiar sunspot cycle seems to be entering a hibernation period known since the 17th century, a pattern that could mean cooler Earth temperatures on global temperatures.

For years, scientists have been predicting the sun would be around 2011 some into solar maximum, a period of intense flares and sunspot activity but lately a new solar cycle has stagnated quite the opposite.

The signs include a waning in sunspots, fading spots and slower activity near the poles, said a rate of studies presented Tuesday at the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society's Solar Physics Division in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

"This is highly unusual and unexpected," said Frank Hill, an senior director of the National Solar Observatory's Solar Synoptic Network.

"But the fact that there were plenty different views of the Sun point in the same direction is a powerful indicator that the sunspot cycle may be going into hibernation."

Solar activity tends to rise and fall every 11 years or so. The latest maximum and solar minimum each mark about half the interval of the magnetic pole reversal on the Sun, which happens every 22 years.

Experts are now poking whether this period of inactivity could be a second Maunder Minimum, a 70-year period when barely any sunspots were observed between 1640-1715. known as the Little Ice Age."

"If we are right, this could be the last solar minimum we'll see for a few decades. That would affect everything from space exploration to Earth's climate," said Hill.

Solar flares and eruptions can send highly charged particles hurtling toward Earth and interfere with satellite transmissions, GPS systems and even airline controls.

Geomagnetic forces have been known to occasionally peak like the world's modern gadgetry, and warnings were issued as recently as last week when a moderate solar flare sent a fiery coronal mass ejection in the Earth's direction.

However, the temperature change associated with any reduction in sunspot activity would likely be minimal and not enough to offset the impact of greenhouse gases on global warming, according to scientists.

"Recent solar 11-year cycles are associated empirically with changes in global surface temperature of 0.1 Celsius," said Judith Lean, a solar physicist with the US Naval Research Laboratory. AFP

Radiation leak detected in Malaysian firm

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's nuclear energy regulator has sealed off a pharmaceutical plant after detecting evidence of a radiation leak earlier this month, a minister said Wednesday.

Science, technology and innovation minister Maximus Ongkili told AFP the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) sealed off the company after four of its employees are off medication monitors when visiting the AELB's office on June 3.

"The radiation reading on one of the workers entered at nearly three 400 times the normal reading (of 0.3 microsieverts per hour)," he said.

Ongkili said the AELB checked the company's premises in a series leakages near on the same day, finding the contamination three at 100 times the normal reading and sealed off the area to "ensure the radiation did not spread and prevent any radioactive particles from leaving the plant." He said three workers at the site were through a decontamination process at the National Radiological Emergency Centre, while the fourth worker with the highest exposure as a result of being "directly involved in the radiopharmaceutical leakage," was treated at the Malaysian Nuclear Agency.

"In this case, the radioactivity has a half life of two hours, therefore after 20 hours, the background reading at the company returned to normal," Ongkili said.

"However, the company has been temporarily closed pending an assessment by the AELB on the licensee's ways to discuss protection programmes," he added, but declined to identify the company or the owners of individuals that were involved. AFP

Australian Government
Aid Programs

REQUEST FOR TENDER

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), responsible for the delivery of one of the largest aid programs in the Philippines - Australia's Development Cooperation Program, is seeking consultants to undertake the following activity:

TOTAL COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS REVIEW FOR MANILA OVERSEAS BASED (O-BASED) NATIONAL STAFF

A comprehensive salary and benefits review is required this financial year 2011-12 to establish the appropriate pay and benefits structure of O-Based national staff, relative to current job skills, responsibilities, accountabilities, effort and conditions of work.

It is anticipated that the activity will commence in July 2011 and will continue over four (4) months.

The closing date for submission of tenders is 4:30pm (Manila time) Monday, 18 July 2011.

Tender documents are available on the website: http://www.philippines-embassy.gov.au/mnl/aboutus.html.

All enquiries should be addressed to: Bianca Garcia, AusAID Manila by email ManilaRunsmandateRunsse@ausaid.gov.au or facsimile +63 2 7578 2601.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ganaa

CIA tipsters in Bin Laden raid nabbed

WASHINGTON—Pakistan's top military spy agency has arrested some of the Pakistani informants who led information to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the months leading up to the raid that led to the death of Osama bin Laden, according to American officials.

Pakistan's detention of the CIA informants, including a Pakistani spy agency mole, officials said, roiled the former allies of contributing Bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, to the weeks before the raid, is the latest evidence of the fractured relationship between the United States and Islamabad. It comes at a time when the Obama administration is seeking Pakistan's support in bolstering an endgame to the war in neighboring Afghanistan.

In a closed briefing last week, members of the Senate Intelligence Committee asked Michael J. Morell, the deputy CIA director to rate Pakistan's cooperation with the United States on counterterrorism operations, on a scale of 1 to 10.

"Three," Morell replied, according to officials familiar with the exchange.

The fate of the CIA informants arrested in Pakistan is unclear, but American officials said that CIA Director Leon E. Panetta raised the issue when he traveled to Islamabad last week to meet with Pakistani military and intelligence officials.

Some in Washington see the arrests as illustrative of the disconnect between Pakistan and America's counterterrorism priorities. Others pay attention to a time when they say espionage was the right against al-Qaida—instead of homing down the support network that allowed Bin Laden to live comfortably for years, the Pakistani authorities are arresting those who assisted in the raid that killed the world's most wanted man.

The Bin Laden raid and more recent attacks by militants in Pakistan have been blows to the country's military, a revered institution in the country. Some officials and outside experts said the military is mired in its worst crisis of confidence in decades.

American officials cautioned that Morell's comments about Pakistani support was a snapshot of the current relationship, and did not represent the administration's overall assessment.

"We have a strong relationship with our Pakistani counterparts and work through issues when they arise," said Marie H. Harf, a CIA spokesperson. "Director Panetta had productive meetings last week in Islamabad. It's a critical partnership, and we will continue to work together in the fight against al-Qaida and other terrorist groups."

Hussain Haqqani, Pakistan's ambassador to the US, said that the CIA and the Pakistani spy agency "are working out mutually agreeable terms for their cooperation in fighting the enemies of terrorism. It is not appropriate for us to get into the details of this stage."

Over the past several weeks the Pakistani military has been documenting itself from American intelligence and counterterrorism operations against militant groups in Pakistan. This has angered many in Washington, who believe that Bin Laden's death has shaken al-Qaeda and that there is more opportunity to further weaken the terrorist organization with assistance and advice from elites.

—New York Times/News Service

Chinese girl recalls day of raid

BEIJING—"Where were you when ...?"

It's a question often surrounding dramatic world events, and while most of us remember hearing about the death of Osama bin Laden from TV, Internet or word of mouth, it was a very different story for 20-year-old Chinese tourist Dong Xiaoxi.

She was right inside the White House when it happened.

As cable media outlets were tweeting on May 1 in hour with US President Barack Obama had called a sudden news conference on a Sunday night, Dong had a view behind the scenes, witnessing the politicians talk frustrated and seeing their consternation behind the carefully orchestrated public image.

"The government officials and politicians had a lot of discussions about how to act the time, and I was so lucky to be in the State Department to witness this," Dong said.

The US government was initially trapped in a dilemma about what manner to adopt—if President Barack Obama celebrated bin Laden's death with joy, it could hurt the feelings of family members of those who died in the 9/11 attacks.

Instead of the president, senators and officials of the US Department of Homeland Security announced the killing as the United States' biggest victory against terrorism.

Another observation: Dong found interesting was that the US government did not release any pictures of bin Laden.

"To the White House I saw a number of pictures of the killing. To be frank, some looked rather dreadful with the ones shot in the head and in the chest," Dong said.

White House officials, worried that the photos would provoke revenge, kept the pictures secret.

Dong, who one of the 26 Chinese selected worldwide to work in the White House, Dong applied for the internship in December 2010.

—China Daily/ANN

SWIFT FOODS, INC.

[illegible]

Dear Stockholder,

Please take notice that the year's annual meeting of the stockholders of SWIFT FOODS, INC. will be held on the June 30-31 at 9:00 a.m. at the SWIFT Corporate Center, corner Pioneer and Ortigas Streets, Mandaluyong City.

The agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Stockholders' Meeting held on 30 June 2016
4. Report of the President
5. Approval of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016
6. [illegible]
7. Election of Directors
8. Ratification of the Acts of the Board of Management and the Officers
9. Ratification of Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
10. Appointment of External Auditors
11. [illegible]
12. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record at the close of business hours on 27 May 2017 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. Registration will start at 1:00 p.m. and all those at exactly 2:00 p.m. Please present any government issued ID as proof of identification such as a driver's license, passport, postal ID, or identification ID. Valid duly authorized identification representatives of corporation stockholders should present a notarized Secretary's Certificate indicating the representative's authority to represent the corporation. Secretary's certificate should indicate the name of the representative, the Corporation's TIN, and be signed by the corporate secretary and at least [illegible] of the corporate officers. Proxies should be submitted to the Corporate Secretary for inspection, at least [illegible] before the meeting. Proxies must be presented to the Corporate Secretary for inspection, verification, and recording before the meeting. Proxies that are incomplete, illegible, or submitted late may be rejected. Please bring this notice with you for registration.

Thank you for your kindness to attend the meeting. You may want to consider appointing a proxy in favor of a representative. Proxies must be presented to the Corporate Secretary for inspection, verification, and recording before the meeting. Proxies that are incomplete, illegible, or submitted late may be rejected. Please bring this notice with you for registration.

Very truly yours,

[illegible]
Corporate Secretary

'Terminator's mistress breaks silence

LONDON—Arnold Schwarzenegger's former housekeeper has spoken out about having a child with the ex-governor, saying her son Joseph only learned about a year ago who his father was.

Mildred Baena, has kept a low profile since the revelations of her affair with the former California governor sparked a tabloid frenzy.

The scandal exploded into public view after Schwarzenegger and wife Maria Shriver announced in May that they were splitting up after 25 years of marriage. Then came an admission by the former Austrian governor a week later that he fathered a child with a member of the household staff. Baena reportedly worked for Schwarzenegger and Shriver for 20 years.

In an interview published on Tuesday by Hola! magazine, Baena said that when her now 13-year-old son, Joseph, learned who his father was his response was simple: "Cool!"

The mother and son posed for the magazine in one of the first published pictures of Joseph—both with slight smiles. Baena revealed behind her son with her hand on his arm.

Baena said she wasn't initially certain Schwarzenegger was the father but started to see a resemblance in her son as Joseph grew older.

"It became more apparent as time went on," the former housekeeper said. "I knew Arnold was the father, and maybe as Joseph got older and began to look like him, he [Arnold] remembered. That he never said anything to me."

She said Shriver also gave no polite or whispers circulated in the household over the affair. The two between Joseph and her sons. Baena said Shriver finally asked "quite blank" if the boy was Schwarzenegger's son, and was "so strong" when faced with the truth.

"She cried with me and told me to get off my knees," Baena said. "We held each other and I told her it wasn't Arnie's fault, that it takes two."

Schwarzenegger has put his Hollywood comeback on hold to work on his personal life in the aftermath of the scandal, and Baena assumed that the former governor is "a good man."

"I know he's suffering too," she said. "He loves Maria. I hope with time they can make things right."

Schwarzenegger spokesperson Adam Mendelsohn and Shriver spokesman Matthew D. Giordano said they had no comment on the report. AP

ARNOLD Schwarzenegger's mistress Mildred Baena and their alleged love child are shown in this photo shown on an online networking site.

Terminator's mistress breaks silence

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
VEO, Penaing, Palo, Leyte
Fax No. (053) 323-0000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
PROCUREMENT OF INTEGRATED TRUCKING AND HANDLING SERVICES FOR 2017 FOB NFA REGION VIII

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its corporate budget for 2017 intends to apply the sum of THIRTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY EIGHT PESOS AND FORTY CENTAVOS (Php 30,125,000.40) being the Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) under the Contract for the Procurement of Integrated Trucking and Handling Services for 2017 for NFA Region VIII. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Opening.

The National Food Authority now invites all interested participants to bid for the Procurement of 2017 Integrated Trucking and Handling Services for NFA Region VIII. The whole requirement shall be for the period July 1 – December 31, 2017 and will be bidded on a per lot basis with the following specifications:

Lot No.	Province	Description/Specification	Estimated Budget for the Contract (ABC) (Php)	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) (Php) Amount in Words	Bidding Fee (Php)
1	Northern Leyte	Integrated Trucking and Handling Services	30,125	One Million	5,000
2	So. Leyte	"	30,125	One Million	5,000
3	Biliran	"	30,125	One Million	5,000
4	Eastern Samar	"	30,125	One Million	5,000
5	Western Samar	"	30,125	One Million	5,000
6	Northern Samar	"	30,125	One Million	5,000
7	Eastern Samar	"	30,125	One Million	5,000

The bidder's may bid for as many lots as he is interested.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using the sealed-bid/envelop public bid process as prescribed in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect/purchase the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. upon presentation of acknowledgement bidding fee as specified above.

Schedule of Activities

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Bid Docs	NFA-8 Regional Office, Penaing, Palo Leyte	June 16, 2017 – July 1, 2017 @ 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (issuance of Bid docs will only be up to 2:30 P.M. only)
Pre-bidding Conference	do	June 21, 2017 @ 10:00 A.M.
Submission of Opening of Bids	do	July 7, 2017 @ 2:00 P.M.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount, equal to and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid in the following schedule and form:

FORM OF BID SECURITY	MINIMUM AMOUNT % OF APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC)
Cashier's/Certified/Manager's cheque, Bank Draft/Guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable commercial bank located in Tacloban City	Five percent (5%) of the ABC
Surety Bonds, Bond Market Securities or Warrant	Five percent (5%) of the ABC
Any combination of the foregoing	Proportionate to share of form with respect to total amount of security

Late bids shall not be accepted.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept bids most advantageous to the government, to reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region VIII
CRESTITO C. MANGMANG, RNSC, Chairperson
Regional Office No. 8, Penaing, Palo, Leyte
Tel. Nos. (053) 323-0000/323-0004
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(Sgd.) CRESTITO C. MANGMANG
ARBITRAS Chairperson

(PA – June 15, 2017)

2002 Bali bomb suspect arrested

JAKARTA—Indonesian authorities on Tuesday said they arrested a suspect in the 2002 Bali bombings who later ran a jihadi training camp in the Philippines, and two suspected militant envoys top terrorists after uncovering a new plot against police.

National police spokesperson Brig. Gen. Anton Sudarsol Mamo said on Tuesday that the alleged Bali bomber, Hery Hartono, was captured Ambon in Maluku, a town in central Indonesia.

Police say Hartono was a facilitator who purchased chemicals equipment for the Bali bombing that killed 202 people, mainly foreigners, and forged Indonesian into the front lines of the battle against terrorism.

He is among the 11 men arrested in recent days in Java, Sumatra and Maluku on suspicion of plotting to kill police with cyanide. AP

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■ OceanaGold ramps up work at Didipio /B2

Editor Raul O. Morales • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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■ April job situation improves slightly /B6

PH earns another ratings upgrade

Moody's action puts 'investment grade' within reach

By Bernie W. Damicog

MOODY'S INVESTOR Service upgraded the Philippines' sovereign ratings by a notch to Ba2 due to a "notable turnaround in fiscal management" by the government and signs of rising revenues.

The international debt watcher also pegged the outlook for the country's foreign and local currency long-term bond ratings at "stable."

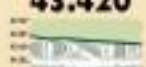
The debt rating now stands at two notches below investment grade, on a par with ratings given by Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's, with the latter upgrading the country last year.

The credit watcher said the decision to upgrade was based on the progress made in fiscal consolidation by the Aquino administration as well as the

For BUSINESS, B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
June 15, 2011
43.420



STOCK MARKET
June 15, 2011
61.11

(For stock market news, see Page B3)

Local stocks buoyed by good news

LOCAL SHARES posted a 4-day losing streak on Wednesday as Wall Street's euphoria lifted the main index back above the 4,200 level.

Market sentiment will likely continue to improve in the coming days following the ratings upgrade by international debt watcher Moody's Investor Service, which finance department officials said would help bring down borrowing costs and attract investments.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) gained 61.11 points or 1.47 percent to close at 4,201.48, while the all-shares index climbed 0.95 percent to 2,868.20.

Sub-indices were all in the green led by mining and oil shares which rose an average of 3.7 percent, helping lift the main index from its Tuesday close—the lowest point it reached since April.

The day's 83 advancers outnumbered decliners more than two to one, leaving 38 issues unchanged.

The day's trading was influenced heavily by gains in the US as the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 1.93 percent to 12,078.11 points, following the release of better-than-expected retail sales numbers in the world's largest economy.

LBO/ALBS

OFW remittances up 6.3% in April

By Bernie W. Damicog

THE INFLOW of remittances from overseas Filipinos entered through banks reached $1.6 billion in April, up by 6.3 percent year-on-year, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said in statement the increase reflected increased inflows from both sea-based workers—which rose by 12.2 percent—while those from land-based workers went up by 4.4 percent.

April inflows brought the total in the first four months to $6.2 billion or 6 percent higher than the $5.9 billion recorded in the same period of 2010.

From January to April, the major sources of remittances were the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, and Italy.

"Remittance flows continued to show support for the already strong demand for Filipino skills and expertise and the continuing efforts of banks and other financial institutions to conveniently promote and improve upon the financial products and services they offer to the remittance market," Tetangco said.

Citing preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), approved job orders for January-May totaled 269,386.

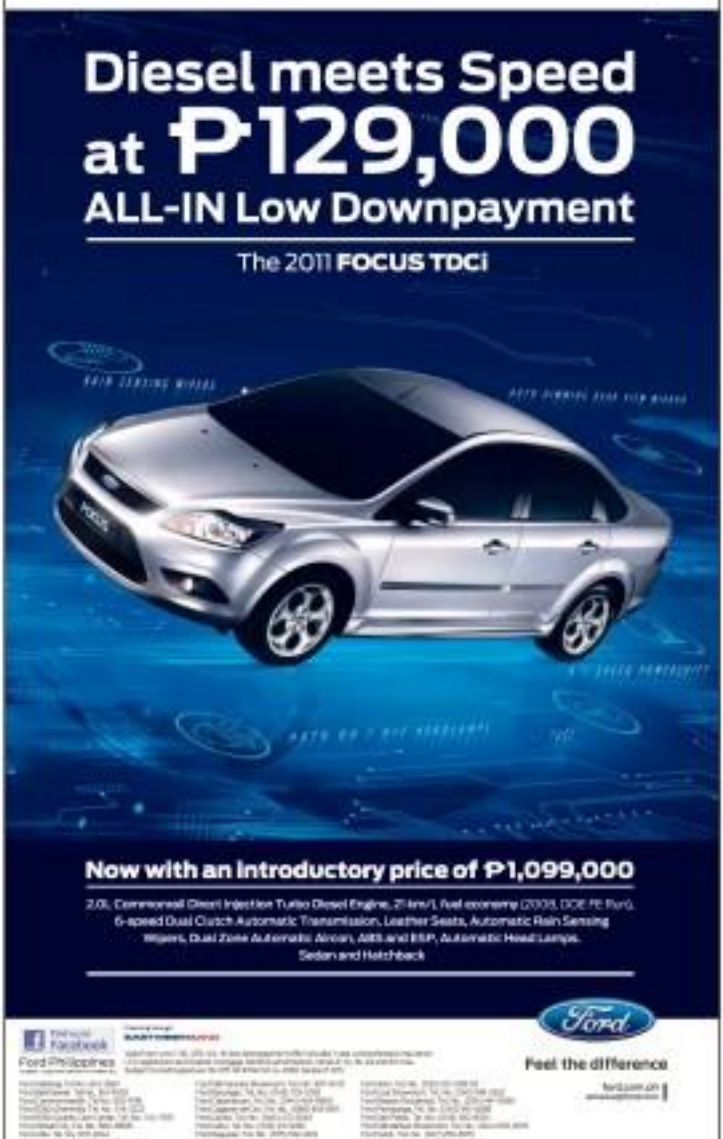
Of the total, about a third has already been processed while the rest have yet to be filled-up.

Most of these are intended for deployment to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Further, the POEA said new rules have been issued to strengthen the temporary foreign workers program in Canada to prevent foreign workers and maintain the Canadian government's focus on attracting temporary labor shortages.

Tetangco said another factor that helped

(PHOTO BY)



Megawide 2011 profit seen hitting P800M

Company plans to diversify project portfolio

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LISTED MEGAWIDE Construction Corp. sees its 2011 profit growing by more than double as the company moves to diversify its portfolio of projects to include developments by other land/real estate giants.

The company, which is 29-percent owned by retail group SM, said it also planned to venture into the infrastructure sector under the Aquino administration's public private partnership (PPP) initiatives.

"If you look at the plans of the country's top five listed real estate developers, they have close to P500B billion worth of projects in their pipeline for this year and the next," Megawide chief investment officer Gilbert Tan said last Tuesday.

With the abundance of projects available, Tan said the company's profit by the end of this year could readily reach P800 million, from P350 million in 2010.

He said most of these projects were in the residential sector, which remained strong due to the continued inflow of remittances from overseas Filipinos working abroad.

Most of Megawide's current projects are residential high-rise development by SM Development Corp.—now the country's largest real estate firm.

In the first quarter of the year, Megawide's profit jumped by 300 percent year-on-year to P194.1 million on higher revenue booked from building contracts in progress. Tan said this trend had so far been sustained in the second quarter.

Tan said the company planned to diversify by taking in many projects as it can from other developers. "We want to construct new cities to diversify our client base or mitigate our concentration risk," he said.

He added that the company was currently looking at the possibility of bidding for several infrastructure projects to be put on the auction block by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

The DOTC is the government's main implementing agency for 200 projects—the centerpiece of the current administration's economic platform.

Among the projects lined up by the DoTC include the common station to be shared by the Light Rail Transit (LRT) line 1 and Metro Rail Transit train lines to be located at North Avenue in Quezon City.

Also expected to be put up for bidding this year is the contract to build the LRT line 1 South Extension to Cavite Province.

Gerry's Grill to open 6 new branches

By Abigail L. Ho

SUBSCRIBE TO restaurant chain Gerry's Grill is spending at least P40 million this year to open six additional branches all over the country.

The company recently opened a branch at Alabang Mall in Ilaya City, its second in Mindanao, with the new one to be at Greenhill 2 and Robinsons Place Manila, and Prime Pacific Cold Inc. chief executive Gerry Apollo said.

Another branch would be opened in Baguio City, its second in the area, and three more in other parts of the country he added.

Each branch would require an investment of P1.5 million to P1.7 million, depending on the location.

The Alviera Mall location showed a lot of potential, Apollo said, considering that the mall stood on a 13-hectare Ayala development that also had hotels and office spaces, as well as commercial and residential areas.

While keen on also expanding to location outside the country, he said the company would be bidding off on opening new branches overseas and would instead just focus on beefing up its franchising arm next year.

There are at present three Gerry's Grill branches outside the country: one at the Marina Bay Sands Hotel in Singapore, and two in the United States. The US branches are located in Daly City, San Francisco and Encino, Los Angeles, both of which are home to large Filipino communities.

The overseas branches, Apollo said, were performing "above expectations."

Should Gerry's Grill embark on an international expansion, he had another said the potential new store locations included Hong Kong, Thailand, Australia, and Canada, particularly in Toronto, Richmond or Vancouver.

Singapore firm picked to build Asean trade link

STOCK EXCHANGE operators in Southeast Asia have picked a Singaporean technology company to create electronic links between the region's equity markets—a step closer to the goal of enabling more border-trades to increase investment activities in the region.

The first four Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) trading link participants are Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines, through the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

The PSE said its foreign partners from Integrated Global Trading Pte Ltd, a Singapore-based firm, as the network infrastructure and software provider for the planned linkup to start in the first quarter of 2012.

"The Asean trading link aims to eventually interconnect the participating markets and facilitate cross-border trading," the PSE said in a disclosure on its website.

The agreement with IntelGrid was signed last Tuesday, PSE said.

All other equity markets in the Asean are expected to join the trading link by 2015 and 2018. That is in line with an plan to formulate the fragmented region into a united economic unit.

The plan also involves easing trade restrictions and the granting of air rights to facilitate the faster movement of goods and services among the region's 10 members.

"The Asean trading link will facilitate global trades especially for small businesses seeking a bigger exposure in the fast growing Asean market," PSE president and CEO Hans Sicat said in a statement.

The PSE earlier migrated to NYSE Technologies' TDC 7000 trading platform, which boosts the product range, trading performance and software capacity of the local bourse. This has been rebranded as the PSEtrade system.

Although the new system drew flak from trading participants at first, the exchange has said it is now in a better position to boost stock trading liquidity, introduce new products, and hook up with other neighboring exchanges as part of the planned cross-border trading within the region. Paolo G. Montecillo

OceanaGold ramps up work at Didipio

By Ross T. Chidavaran

OCEANAGOLD CORP. said in a statement yesterday that it would progressively ramp up construction on the Didipio Project in Northern Luzon in the coming weeks.

The project has been redesigned to take advantage of currently high metal prices.

The company expects the commissioning of the project at school said in the fourth quarter of 2012.

"Over the past six months we have been working hard to unlock significant value through adjustments in the design of the mine, processing plant and infrastructure, which joined average annual gold production increase of 45-percent and average annual copper production increase of 60-percent over the life of the mine," managing director and CEO Mark Pilkington said in a statement sent via e-mail.

"The robust project will be transformational for OceanaGold and gives us a significant platform to expand further into the Philippines and throughout Asia Pacific," he said.

The project cost is expected to reach $330 million. Of the amount, $32 million was spent as of May 31, 2011, leaving $270 million to complete the project.

PH earns another ratings upgrade

From page B1

"sustained success of macroeconomic stability, coupled with continued strength in the external payments position, against a background of a significant pick-up in the economy for economic growth."

Moody's noted that over the last four months of 2011, Malacañang succeeded in enacted "budget-neutral tax reforms" underpinning the notable turnaround in fiscal management seen during the first six months of the Aquino administration.

"Much of the improvement has been attributed to expenditure restraint, but there is also evidence of an uptick in revenue generation," it said.

"While we expect expenditures to increase significantly in the second semester of 2011, as the government commences its countercyclical infrastructure investment program, the rise will not likely derail the sovereign's fiscal consolidation," it added.

Moody's said it believes the incoming fiscal spending restraint, the government has bolstered its policy credibility and has improved prospects for reform.

The company noted, however, that the "continued uncertainty" over the implementation of structural measures to improve revenue generation just like the public sector bank bureau.

Moody's also pointed out that, owing to continued prudence in macroeconomic management, solid growth momentum in the Philippines has not produced substantial pressures in the form of rising inflation or the country's inflation rate.

"However, headwinds stemming from softening growth prospects in the region have emerged, although these should be offset by a sustained improvement in domestic demand conditions," it said.

Local ...

From page B1

On the local front, Moody's on Wednesday announced that it had upgraded the country's sovereign debt rating by one notch to Ba2, which is still below investment grade, citing the state's improving fiscal situation.

"We are now one step closer to our goal of attaining investment grade rating, which is crucial in further lowering our borrowing costs and attracting more investments," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said. Paolo G. Montecillo

OFW remittances ...

From page B1

shore spenditures was the fact that banks and other financial institutions have been actively introducing innovative remittances products such as adding a remittance feature to credit cards.

Such enterprises are "providing reliable services to enable overseas Filipinos to transfer money swiftly, and securely to relatives back home," he said.

"These initiatives are expected to encourage the use of the formal channels to capture a bigger share of the global remittance market.

Earlier this year, BSP cut its growth forecast for remittances this year to 7 percent from its original estimate of 10 percent.

However, remittance growth is seen to slow further to 5 percent next year. With a report from Reuters

Asia Q2 business sentiment falls, survey says

Lowest level since Q3 of '10

A HSBC-cabin crew on HSBC advertisement promoting China's renminbi-related products and services in Hong Kong. Business sentiment at Asia's top companies fell to the second quarter, hitting its lowest since the third quarter of 2010. AFP/File

BLOOMBERG

BANGKOK—Business sentiment at Asia's top companies fell to the second quarter, hitting its lowest since the third quarter of 2010 as rising costs and growing doubts over the strength of the global economy crimped a Reuters survey showed.

The Reuters Asia Corporate Sentiment Index fell to 71 from 89 in the first quarter of 2011, while was the highest level since Reuters began collecting data in June 2009. An index above 50 indicates a positive outlook. The index was compiled from a poll of 189 executives in Asia's top firms between June 2-10, following are key survey highlights from the poll.

Regions: Upbeat—The 10 resource companies in the poll were overwhelmingly positive with one very positive response from China. The companies to see overall positive sense in the previous quarter.

The major risk identified by the financial sector was global economic uncertainty, including government regulation, inflation and interest rate uncertainty.

Projects—Positive tilt. The five Asian property companies in the poll reported a generally positive tenure for the second quarter compared with a positive-neutral stance in March. Three saw one negative response, while Australia, Overall, the survey remains resilient, despite efforts to cool the property market in parts of Asia. Reuters

Euro again under pressure in Asia; oil prices down

SINGAPORE—The euro came under fresh pressure in Asia on Wednesday as worry about sluggish debt intensified, prompting a move away from riskier assets which helped yield interest gains.

Asian stocks extended losses over Greek fiscal woes. Markets generally ignored higher as positive data from the world's two largest economies encouraged investors to buy back to growth-sensitive assets.

But latest concerns about the global outlook and the Greek debt crisis made sellers dip.

European stocks were expected to dish losses early on Wednesday as investors' appetite for riskier assets was soon fading after the euro zone ministers failed to finalize the Greek deal. The ministers were unable to agree on how private holders of Greek debt should share the costs of a new bailout, pulling the euro on the leaders of Germany and France to forge a deal next week.

Oil fell on Wednesday as the dollar strengthened after the failure to strike a Greek agreement, while rising gasoline stockpiles in the United States signaled lower demand is cooling.

The euro was down 0.2 percent at $1.4434 after pushing on from session highs of $1.4451 early on Wednesday after better-than-expected US retail sales and Chinese inflation data boosted risk appetite the day before.

Chinese data showed the world's second biggest economy may avoid a hard landing as some had feared, while a US consumer spending report that was not as weak as expected lifted oil $1 cents , oil and other

Recharged Ford sets sights on Asian markets

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—With its restructuring in the rearview mirror, Ford Motor Co is looking to the next act in its comeback by building its business in Asia's emerging markets.

Ford plans to grow global sales by 10 percent over the next four years with a strong push in China, India, Thailand and India, chief executive officer Alan Mulally said last week.

"We are rapidly making the transition from fixing the business to capitalizing on our business to driving profitable growth in all of our operations," Mulally said in the company's recent annual report. "To do this, we are investing in an unprecedented amount of new products and technology worldwide."

Ford, which was the only major US automaker to avoid the 2008 downturn without receiving a government bailout or and bankruptcy, has also profited from the troubles at General Motors and Chrysler.

Ford's rising profile disregarded to such extent after it successfully reengaged all its assets to fund a massive restructuring, but the number two US automaker has been able to overtake its Detroit and Japanese premium much more rapidly than its Detroit rivals.

But Ford will have still to compete from Volkswagen AG, General Motors and Toyota, which already have large pieces of the Asian market, especially in China.

Ford executive is never player in China—as a group it has less than three percent of the passenger vehicle market in the world's second biggest economy and about one percent of the light commercial vehicle market.

But growth has been strong—Ford Motor China and its joint ventures sold 582,467 vehicles last year, up 40 percent. AFP

Qantas cuts costs, cancels orders

SYDNEY—Australia's Qantas Airways will slash spending by A$750 million (US$780 million) and plans to cancel aircraft orders as it battles waning demand, soaring fuel costs and customer disgruntlement with its shorter trading now multi-year loss.

Qantas, which suffered a blow to its cop, entered after an Airbus A380 accident last year forced it to ground its flagship aircraft, said it will cut capital expenditure by A$500 million through the end of March 2012 and will reduce aircraft leasing costs by A$300 million.

With its shares at two-year lows, pilots threatening strike action, costs soaring and the domestic economy going through a tough patch, Qantas last week made public its risks do take action, with some analysts suggesting its cardio rating could come under pressure.

The airline has already offered cabin crew a dual-pay redundancy in hopes of cutting 950 jobs and raised fares several times to combat its A$157 billion fuel bill.

Qantas said it expects its domestic capacity to grow by just 1.5 percent, below the 6 percent projected earlier and the airline will cancel or defer a total of 40 aircraft deliveries next year.

Australia's economy contracted by the fastest rate in 20 years in the first quarter and recent data on retail spending and consumer sentiment indicates households are feeling more pain than earlier thought and were unlikely to sharply raise consumer spending.

In addition, households have sharply raised their savings as they expect interest rates and mortgage costs to go even higher. Reuters

US debt talks focus on annual spending

WASHINGTON—Republicans and Democrats grappled over the US government's annual spending levels on Tuesday as they worked toward a deal that would increase annual budget deficits and allow the country to continue borrowing to pay its bills to date.

As Vice President Joe Biden met with top lawmakers at the Capitol, the chair of the Federal Reserve warned that failure to lift the government's borrowing limit would risk a potentially disastrous loss of confidence, and economists the Gulf states forecast the deficit to reach record levels.

The group has struggled to fix to breach a stark divide over taxes and healthcare, but could find common ground on a proposal under over Friday from late cuts to current spending. Republicans want to lock in spending at a much lower level. The Democratic amounts to more than $1 trillion over 10 years—a gap that will not be easy to resolve.

The group has stepped up the pace of its talks to try to reach a deal to avert a crisis that would give Congress the political cover to raise the $14.3 trillion debt limit well before Aug. 2, when the Treasury Department has warned it will run out of money to pay the government's bills.

The United States could lose its top credit rating and the dollar's reserve currency status could suffer if Congress does not act, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned.

"Even a short suspension of payments on principal or interest on the Treasury's debt obligations would cause severe disruptions in financial markets and the payments system," Bernanke said at an event organized by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

The group is expected Wednesday to consider proposals that would trigger automatic spending cuts, and possibly tax hikes, if Congress does not get budget deficits under control in coming years. Republicans want a firm cap on spending, while Democrats favor a more flexible approach that would allow tax hikes as well.

Deficits are hovering at their highest levels relative to the economy since World War Two, the rule fiscal crisis, the deficit is expected to reach $1.4 trillion.

Congress faces the challenge of trying to cut the budget but also boost the sputtering economy in the short term. Reuters

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We find ways

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Baguio
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE (CIVIL WORKS)

INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Baguio through the Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) for Infrastructure invites interested contractors to bid for the prosecution of the following infrastructure projects:

NO.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION / BARANGAY	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (in Philippine Pesos)	DURATION (in Calendar Days)	COST OF BID FORM (in Philippine Pesos)
1	a) Proposed Amphitheater at Baguio Centennial Park (a) CBAO	Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road	5,000,000.00	60	5,000.00
	b) Proposed Amphitheater at Baguio Centennial Park (Phase II) c/o CBAO	Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road	2,434,758.83	60	4,750.41
			7,434,758.83	Duration=M	14,250.41
2	Improvement of Botanical Garden (Phase I) c/o CBAO	Botanical Garden	9,00,526.36	200	20,000.00
3	Rehabilitation of Block 4 c/o CBAO	Lualhati Street, Baguio City Market	25,500,000.67	300	30,000.00

The schedule of BAC Activities are as follows:

No.	Activity	Venue	Time/Date
1	Only the plans will be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount as above stated to the City Treasurer's Office, City Hall, Baguio City. All other bidding documents will be downloaded at Philgeps.net	City Budget Office, City Hall, B. C.	2:00 PM, 5:00 PM, June 13, July 4, 2011
2	Pre-Bid Conference (Open only to all interested bidders who have purchased the bidding documents)	CTO, Conference Rm., City Hall, B. C.	10:00 AM, June 21, 2011
3	Deadline for Submission and Receipt of Bids	CTO, Conference Rm., City Hall, B. C.	10:00 AM, July 5, 2011
4	Opening of bids and eligibility check	CTO, Conference Rm., City Hall, B. C.	10:00 AM, July 5, 2011

This City Government of Baguio, thru the BAC for Infrastructure reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) LETICIA O. CLEMENTE
BAC Chairperson

(PD – June 16, 2011)

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website: www.tsu.edu.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS APPLIANCES, FURNITURE AND CABINETS

The Tarlac State University, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: PURCHASE OF VARIOUS APPLIANCES, FURNITURE AND CABINETS
Approved Budget for the Contract: P 3,138,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the approved project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "passed/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting June 16, 2011
2. Pre-Bid Conference	June 23, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m. Venue: Audit Visual Room, 2nd Floor, Admin. Building, Tarlac State University, Tarlac City
3. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 5, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m. Venue: Audit Visual Room, 2nd Floor, Admin. Building, Tarlac State University, Tarlac City

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Non-Refundable amount of P 5,000.00 to the TSU Cashier.

The Tarlac State University assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

For further information, please refer to:
Ms. Marilen D. de Guzman
(045) 982-0100 loc. 109
Cell No. (0920) 9-xxx-xxxx
(045) 491-1434

Approved by:
(Sgd.) DR. SALUD F. VIOOR
BAC Chairman

(PD – June 16, 20)

Republic of the Philippines
TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
Romulo Blvd., San Vicente, Tarlac City
Telefax No.: (045) 982-0100
website: www.tsu.edu.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

The Tarlac State University, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: PURCHASE OF VARIOUS COMPUTER EQUIPMENT
Approved Budget for the Contract: P 3,031,700.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the approved project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "passed/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

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For further information, please refer to:
Ms. Marilen D. de Guzman
(045) 982-0100 loc. 109
Cell No. (0920) 9-xxx-xxxx
(045) 491-1434

Approved by:
(Sgd.) DR. SALUD F. VIOOR
BAC Chairman

(PD – June 16, 20)

Barangay Central na Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO BID

The Barangay Central ng Mabini (BAC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description:	Medical Insurance Coverage for the 13 BAC-SP retirees for one (1) month as per BAC Terms of Reference: a. 4 retirees 60 years old and below b. 7 retirees 61-70 years old c. 2 retirees 71 years old
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):	₱ 112,200.00
Contract Duration:	One (1) month effective 30 August 2011 to 27 May 2011

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement/project awarded and completed within the last three (3) years amounting to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "passed/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 16 June 2011 (from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 and 1:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. only) Finance Office, Magat 212, 2nd Floor, Rex Bldg. Building, A. Mabini corner P. Gomez St. Mabini, Mabini, Manila Tel. No. 1120021 (Loc No. 2040/52)
2. Pre-bid Conference	22 June 2011, 2:30 P.M., MPH
3. Opening of Bids	28 July 2011, 2:30 A.M., MPH
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the revised IRR of R.A. No. 9184
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

The IRR and Checklist of Requirements for Bidders may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the BSP Website (www.bsp.gov.ph). The complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address stated above upon presentation of the PHILGEPS Supplier's Enlistment Certificate and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ₱ 1,000.00.

The BSP reserves no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare the bidding a failure, and to cancel the contract, at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder. Furthermore, the BSP reserves the right to waive any minor defect or formality and to accept the proposal most advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) VICTORIO GARLITOS
Vice Chairman

(PD – May 19, 2011)

WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE

Area: 1,287.50 square meters
Location: 2nd St. corner Tacoma Street, Port Area, Manila

FEATURES:
Flood free, 36 feet high, cemented floor;
24-hour security, no-smoke policy;
With front and back doors;
Parking space available, no truck ban;
Perimeter fence and lights;
Berthing space available;
Between NICT and South Harbor

Please contact: MARION / or ALLYN
from 8am – 5pm at 301-1301 and 527-2801

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

IBR 40.215QM
(Lot area: 1500 sq.m.)
(Floor area: 215 sq.m.)
Brgy. Kaligayahan, Quirino Highway
TEL: 426-xxxx / 426-xxxx
RESIDENCE: 1234 Kaligayahan

Special Launching Offer
Only for Selected Buyers

₱3,017
Reg. Php 4,xxx
Reservation ... ₱5,000
Down ... 4.5%
(Pay-Out Arrangement)
Cath. Tagaytay
VP - Condominium Lawrence
VP - 09xxxxxxxxx

PUBLIC NOTICES

RUSH CUBAO
Very near EDSA
Ignacio Bonifacio Street (Bonifacio St.)
100 SQM
28 mtr frontage
FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT
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AUSMat ... A21
NFA ... A22
Swift Foods, Inc. ... A23
Province of Misamis Occidental ... B6
SSC ... B6

INVITATION TO BID

Item of Project	Approved Budget for the Contract	Bidders Quoted Bid Amount	Bidders Quoted Bid Amount	Bidders Quoted Bid Amount
1 Project Marquee	₱ 125,000.00	₱ 120,000.00	₱ 125,000.00	₱ 130,000.00
2 Construction of Phase 2, Jesus Nazareno de Calumpang Multi-Purpose Building at Brgy. Calumpang, Boac, Marinduque	₱ 600,000.00	₱ 600,000.00	₱ 600,000.00	₱ 600,000.00
3 Construction of Multi-Purpose Building at San Miguel, Boac, Marinduque	₱ 600,000.00	₱ 600,000.00	₱ 600,000.00	₱ 600,000.00

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN PHILIPPINES (UNP) VIGAN CITY, ILOCOS SUR

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR PRESIDENCY

The Board of Regents of the University of Northern Philippines (UNP), Vigan City, Ilocos Sur formally and publicly announces that the Search for the next President of UNP is now open.

Minimum Qualifications

Applicants for UNP Presidency must possess the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must not be more than thirty-five (35) years old but not more than sixty-one (61) years old (born at the time of application
2. Must be a natural-born Filipino citizen.
3. Must be a holder of an earned Doctoral degree.
4. Must have proven track record as an administrator such as President, Vice-President, Campus Administrator, Director (Chief, institutional or equivalent) for at least a period of five (5) years. This must be supported by documents (e.g. Certification or Special Order from the concerned party stating the managerial, professional and/or administrative experience and the period covered).
5. Must not have been convicted of any administrative offense or of any crime involving moral turpitude.

Documentary Requirements

Interested applicants must submit one (1) set of notarized and duly certified photocopies of the following documents to the SCP Secretariat:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to the Chairperson of CHED;
2. Curriculum Curriculum Vitae (CV), signed under oath;
3. Certified true copy of the documents in support of the data stated in the CV;
4. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission, and Development Goals for the College/University;
5. Certification/Clearances from the following Government agencies, obtained not more than one(1) month from the date of filing of application indicating applicant has no administrative and criminal complaints:
   - Sandiganbayan
   - Ombudsman
   - Civil Service Commission (CSC)
   - National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
   - Institution/Company where applicant is presently employed
6. Duly accomplished CSC Form 212 (Data under oath)
7. NSO-authenticated Birth Certificate
8. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a physician from a CHED-accredited or multi-specialty medical clinic/hospital in the same institution where the applicant is presently employed.
9. Results of drug psychiatric examination conducted by a physician from a CHED-recognized accredited health institution but not the same institution where the applicant is presently employed.

Important: Interested applicants must send the above mentioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/copies on or before June 28, 2011, 5:00 PM to either of the following:

CORRI NORA D. RICAFORT
Chairperson, UNP Board of Regents
Director, SEARCA (on Secondment)
UPLB Building, C.P. Garcia Ave.
U.P. Diliman, Quezon City

OR HON. EMERLINDA ROMAN
Chairperson, UNP Search Committee
University of Northern Philippines
Tamag, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur

Attention:

ATTY. LUCY FREDDA B. MILLA
Director, SEARCA
Commission on Higher Education

ATTY. EDWIN A. CONCEPCION, JR.
Director, Office of Legal Affairs
Executive Assistant to the President
University of Northern Philippines

Department of Education
Region X
DIVISION OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
A. Soluc – del Pilar Streets, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION TO BID
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL FURNITURE

1. The Department of Education through the SDS, CY 2011 SCHOOL FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES (FAA) PROGRAM for MISAMIS ORIENTAL under the BASIC EDUCATION FACILITIES FUND (BEFF) of the Department of Education intends to apply the sum of FIVE MILLION EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (Php 5,082,540.00) Pesos being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for SUPPLY AND DOOR TO DOOR DELIVERY OF SCHOOL FURNITURE. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The DIVISION OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION now invites bidders for:
   A) 1,010 pcs. ARMCHAIRS, all wood, for Elementary Schools, per standard design and specifications
   B) 1,480 pcs. ARMCHAIRS, all wood, for Secondary Schools, per design and specifications
   C) 110 sets TEACHER'S TABLE and CHAIR all wood, per design and specifications
   Delivery of the Goods is required not more than 90 Calendar Days from the receipt of the NOTICE TO PROCEED. Bidders should have completed, within FIVE (5) YEARS from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to this Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II - Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/organizations, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from The Chairman of the Bids and Awards Committee of the DepEd Division of Misamis Oriental and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours on June 8, 2011 to June 27, 2011.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on June 8, 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of PHP 500.00 (Non-refundable) (Php 10,000.00) Pesos.
6. The DepEd Division of Misamis Oriental will conduct a Pre-Bid Conference on June 13, 2011, 9:00 o'clock in the morning at DepEd Division of Misamis Oriental - Division Conference Room A, Velez – del Pilar Streets, Cagayan de Oro City, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be submitted to the address below on or before 9:00 o'clock in the morning on June 27, 2011. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB**.
   Bid opening shall be on June 27, 2011 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at DepEd Division of Misamis Oriental - Division Office, A. Velez – del Pilar Streets, Cagayan de Oro City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. The DepEd Division of Misamis Oriental reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
9. For further information, please refer to:
   Dr. MERLA A. ZOSA
   Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
   Officer-in-charge of the Office of the Schools Division Superintendent
   DepEd, Division of Misamis Oriental
   A. Velez – del Pilar Streets, Cagayan de Oro City
   Tel. No. (088)72-726-70 or (088)-856-4341
   doomisor@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) VICTORIA V. GACO
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

OBITUARIES

Fr. Pablo S. Legaspi, Jr.
Sis. Isabel, Pablo D.R. Legaspi, Sr.,
Joseph & Anne Marie Mizzen and
their children wish to thank all those who
attended and came during the untimely
demise of their dearly loved

PRISCILLA SAMONTE LEGASPI

September 3, 1945 – June 13, 2011

Interment is set today at Lazaro Memorial Park, Bambang, Bulacan. Bulacan after the 2 o'clock Concelebrated Mass at St. Isidore Parish, Bambang, Bulacan, Bulacan

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die" – John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory
on the
7th Death Anniversary of our Beloved

Rosalinda Tiangco-Alindogan

(August 29, 1933 – June 16, 2004)

Holy Masses will be offered today, June 16, 2009 at the following churches:

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Hunabon Plaza, Magallanes Village, Makati City	8:30AM 12:00NN 6:00PM	**Sto. Niño de Pax Chapel** Greenhill, Ayala Center, Makati City	7:15AM 12:15PM 5:45PM 7:00PM
Santuario De San Antonio – Friary McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15AM 7:30AM 12:15PM 5:30PM	**Basilica Del Santo Niño** Camarin Boulevard, Cebu City	8:00AM 5:30PM
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish 4388 Bougainville Road, Sun Valley Subd., Parañaque City	6:30AM 6:00PM	**Saint John Evangelist Catholic Church** 1601 Encinitas Boulevard Encinitas CA 92024	

Please remember her in your prayers.

MALRIO "JONG-JONG" N. DAMIAN JR.

Passed away peacefully at the age of 36 in the Center of our Lord on June 12, 2011.

His beloved wife, children, parents, siblings, other relatives and friends request his prayers for God's comfort for the bereaved.

His remains lie in state at LOYOLA COMMEMORIATIVE and Rest Chapel I.

His remains will be on Saturday, June 18, 2011 after the 7:00 a.m. SERVICE.

For any concerns, pls. contact the Family @ 951-1400/7547

In Loving Memory of

SERGIA BELOS SANTOS BEÑAS

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm, for you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

ATTY. FRANCISCO "PAKING" S. SANTOS

December 17, 1919 – June 8, 2011

He will be greatly missed by his beloved children, Victor, **Ma. Linda, Ma. Susan, Maryann, Fran Jr., Rene, Marie, Ma. Cristina, Roberto, Ma. Regina, Sharon** and Marck sons and daughters-in-law; grand and great grandchildren; brothers and sisters and other relatives and friends. The pious readers are requested to join them in praying for his eternal peace and happiness.

A one-day wake and vigil for his remains flown from Cebu City where he lived for over twenty years will be held at La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City (inside Manila Memorial Park) on Friday, June 17, 2011.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 18, 2011 after the 8:00 A.M. mass.

Death Notice

PRINCESS G. VALDEZ

Joined our Lord on June 12, 2011 at the age of 3.

Her remains lie at their residence in Commonwealth, Quezon City.

The family request the prayers readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Friday, June 17, 2011. Details to follow.

"Everything that has a mouth must praise the Lord." – Psalm 150:6

BUSINESS

April job situation improves slightly

Unemployment rate down to 7.2% from 8% a year ago

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE EMPLOYMENT situation in the country improved slightly in April from the same month last year, with the services sector expectedly remaining the largest employers compared with other industries.

At the same time, the National Statistics Office's latest Labor Force Survey showed that about 2.09 million persons were unemployed in April 2011, placing the unemployment rate at 7.2 percent.

This was lower than the 8 percent unemployment rate recorded during the same period last year, and the 7.4 percent in the previous month.

Total employment, meanwhile, was estimated at 93.0 percent, slightly higher by 0.8 percentage point than the 92 percent reported in April 2010.

Out of the estimated 41.8 million population 15 years old and over in April 2011, about 30.7 million were in the labor force. This placed the labor force participation rate at 62.2 percent.

The bulk of employed persons were in the services sector, comprising more than half (51.7 percent) of the total employed population. Agriculture employed 33 percent and the industrial sector 15.3 percent.

Most of those employed in April 2011 were paid workers, comprising 55 percent of the total, with private establishments accounting for 61.4 percent of paid workers. Government and government-controlled corporations accounted for only 8.4 percent and private households 5 percent.

Self-employed workers contributed 29.6 percent of the total number of employed, while unpaid family workers engaged in farms or businesses made up 15 percent share.

Unpaid family workers accounted for 11.9 percent of the total employed.

Nene Olivares, then head of the DF Educacion Labor and Industrial Relations, said in a phone interview that the increase in employment was surprising.

That was especially so given poor economic conditions in the first few months of 2011 due to government underspending, oil price hikes that weighed down businesses, and the slower deployment of overseas Filipino workers because of the volatile situation in the Middle East and North Africa region, he said.

"On the other hand, the slight increase in employment would mean that Filipinos are just taking any job to survive. We should watch out for a growing informal sector and underemployment," he said.

Olivares said that it's good the services sector continues to fill jobs, as manufacturing and agriculture still need improvement. However, underemployment will likely remain to be the biggest challenge to the high level, as claims growth persisted by the present administration.

Around 64.1 percent of the total employed persons in April 2011 were working full time, while 35.1 percent were part time workers.

Underemployment rates also improved, the decline to have additional hours of work in their present jobs, or to have additional jobs, or to have new jobs with longer working hours are considered underemployed.

The number of underemployed persons in April 2011 was estimated at 7.3 million, placing the underemployment rate at 24.4 percent. About 39.6 percent of the 648 underemployed persons were working less than 40 hours a week.

Most unlike 364 percent were male employed than females (36 percent). By age group, five out of 10 unemployed persons were in the age group 15 to 24 years old, while those in 15 unemployed persons were in age group 20 to 34 years old.

As to educational level groups, most of the unemployed were high school graduates (32.6 percent), College undergraduates comprised about 25.1 percent of the total unemployed and college graduates, 20.4 percent.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA
Capitol Compound, City
Telefax # 433-2615

Office of the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija, through the General Appropriations Ordinance for CY 2011 intends to apply the sum of One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00) inclusive of all applicable taxes, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to the payment for the contract for the Consultancy Services for the Proposed Detailed Structural Engineering Design for the Retrofitting Project of SEC Main Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the Bids/Proposals.

The DBC now calls for the submission of eligibility documents for the Consultancy Services for the above-mentioned project from pre-qualified consultants. Such submission of eligibility documents as of 10:00 a.m. June 24, 2011 (Wednesday), 10:00 a.m. at the Bids Examination, DBO-BAC, 4th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Application for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion.

The bidding entity must have the following minimum qualifications:

a. The entity (sole) Consultants must be in the business of providing consultancy services in detailed structural engineering design and retrofit design for buildings not less than 20 years. In case of a joint venture, each company shall have at least five (5) years of experience.

b. The entity must have completed at least three (3) projects similar to the project being bidded. Each completed cost should be at least 50% of the approved budget cost (ABC).

c. The entity must be accredited by and/or member of the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines (ASEP).

d. The Retired Engineers and Geologists must be a member of ASEP and must have been a member in good standing. All projects shall be undertaken under the supervision of the SEC's project.

e. The entity must be registered online with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) as a registration service provider for government requirements.

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of RA 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The short list shall consist of prospective (3) prospective bidders who are adjudged to submit the highest rated and responsive bid.

Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) and submitted not later than 10:00 a.m. June 24, 2011 (Wednesday) at the Bids Examination, DBO-BAC, 4th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Bidders should submit their bids in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The short list shall consist of prospective (3) prospective bidders who are adjudged to submit the highest rated and responsive bid.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address, date and time specified above.

Criteria	Rating (100%)
Experience and track record of the firm	40 pts.
Qualification of technical personnel to be assigned to the project	40 pts.
Equipment capability	10 pts.

The DBC shall conduct bids using the Quality Based Evaluation (QBE). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

The contract shall be completed within six (6) months from the receipt by the winning bidder of the Notice to Proceed.

The DBC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the selection process and reject all Proposals at any time prior to the contract award, without thereby incurring any liability.

For further information, please refer to:

BAC Secretariat
SEC-HRMD, 4th Floor SEC BLG, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 7264-0101
Fax No. 724-1829

June 13, 2011

(Sgd.) Rhodora Josie P. Reyes
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED DETAILED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR THE RETROFITTING PROJECT OF SEC MAIN BUILDING

1. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), through the General Appropriations Act of the fiscal year 2011 intends to apply the sum of One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00) inclusive of all applicable taxes, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to the payment for the contract for the Consultancy Services for the Proposed Detailed Structural Engineering Design for the Retrofitting Project of SEC Main Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the Bids/Proposals.

2. The SEC now calls for the submission of eligibility documents for the Consultancy Services for the above-mentioned project from pre-qualified consultants. Such submission of eligibility documents as of 10:00 a.m. June 24, 2011 (Wednesday), 10:00 a.m. at the Bids Examination, DBO-BAC, 4th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Application for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion.

3. The bidding entity must have the following minimum qualifications:

   a. The entity (sole) Consultants must be in the business of providing consultancy services in detailed structural engineering design and retrofit design for buildings not less than 20 years. In case of a joint venture, each company shall have at least five (5) years of experience.

   b. The entity must have completed at least three (3) projects similar to the project being bidded. Each completed cost should be at least 50% of the approved budget cost (ABC).

   c. The entity must be accredited by and/or member of the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines (ASEP).

   d. The Retired Engineers and Geologists must be a member of ASEP and must have been a member in good standing. All projects shall be undertaken under the supervision of the SEC's project.

   e. The entity must be registered online with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) as a registration service provider for government requirements.

4. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of RA 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The short list shall consist of prospective (3) prospective bidders who are adjudged to submit the highest rated and responsive bid.

5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) and submitted not later than 10:00 a.m. June 24, 2011 (Wednesday) at the Bids Examination, DBO-BAC, 4th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Bidders should submit their bids in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The short list shall consist of prospective (3) prospective bidders who are adjudged to submit the highest rated and responsive bid.

6. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address, date and time specified above.

Criteria	Rating (100%)
Experience and track record of the firm	40 pts.
Qualification of technical personnel to be assigned to the project	40 pts.
Equipment capability	10 pts.

7. The DBC shall conduct bids using the Quality Based Evaluation (QBE). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

8. The contract shall be completed within six (6) months from the receipt by the winning bidder of the Notice to Proceed.

9. The DBC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the selection process and reject all Proposals at any time prior to the contract award, without thereby incurring any liability.

For further information, please refer to:

BAC Secretariat
SEC-HRMD, 4th Floor SEC BLG, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 7264-0101
Fax No. 724-1829

June 13, 2011

(Sgd.) Rhodora Josie P. Reyes
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Meralco banks on big sales to keep profit up

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA ELECTRIC Co., the country's biggest power distributor, is banking on more robust sales volumes this year to make up for lower rate hikes, supply and metering charges and allow the company to continue reporting officially small "challenging" earnings.

The challenge, according to Meralco chief operating officer Dado Reyes, stemmed from the "flat and slightly dropping" distribution, supply and metering charges that Meralco is allowed to collect from its customers over this next four years, starting this year up to June 2014.

The challenge is also because of regulatory year 2012. These charges will go down to P1.5617 per kWh in 2013—lower than the current distribution, supply and metering charges of P1.6464 per kWh.

He attributed the increases in base rate components—much lower than what Meralco had originally sought for—would affect the company's bottom line.

Reyes just said that Meralco might have to trip the local debt market to accommodate certain capital expenditures.

"Any future borrowings will be to finance [certain needs]... We're reviewing the market opportunity. We would like to see whether we could live within these rates [approved by the ERC]," Reyes said.

The approved distribution, supply and metering charges translate to a capital spending of P37.2 billion—from the proposed P49.36 billion—which could derail the planned capital expenditure projects of the distribution utility.

As such, Meralco is now forced to defer several of its planned projects over the next four years, given the tight capital expenditure level imposed by the ERC.

"The challenge for us is how to be able to live within that rates and operating especially [on base] level. That will require reviewing everything or seeing how we can defer some of these capital projects, and see how we can operate within the rates levels or challenging it," Reyes said, adding that the ERC has set for us—and we continue to grow our profitability notwithstanding that," Reyes explained.

COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINES
Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala (sixth from left) and Bulacan Governor Josie Dela Cruz (second from left) lead the ceremonial signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Agriculture and the provincial government of Bulacan for the implementation of the Bulacan Agricultural Development Project (BADP). Also in photo are Bulacan Vice Governor Daniel Fernando (third from left) and Bulacan Agricultural Center Director Nestor Pascual (fifth from left). The BADP is a P1.5-billion project that will establish irrigation facilities, farm-to-market roads, a post-harvest facility and a research and development center in the province. —PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BIR May collection misses goal

REVENUE COLLECTIONS of the country's main tax agency in May fell short of its target by nearly 2 percent, the agency said yesterday.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, which accounts for about two-thirds of total state revenue, collected P88.13 billion, P1.97 billion below its goal of P90.72 billion for the month.

Compared to a year ago, the agency's May collections were up 21.5 percent. —Reuters

CEB starts Manila-Busan service

By Paolo G. Montecillo

CEBGOKONGLILEO budget carrier Cebu Pacific launched its 24th international route this week, cementing its position as the country's largest airline.

In a statement, the company said its Manila-Busan service started with the maiden flight yesterday taking off Manila at 4:15 p.m. and arriving in Busan at 8:40 p.m.

"Cebu Pacific offers the lowest fare from the Philippines to Busan, South Korea's second largest city. We are very optimistic about our Busan operations, especially since this is our fourth route to South Korea," Cebu Pacific vice president for route-letting and distribution Candice Iyog said.

She was not clear that number for Cebu Pacific flights can really be considered by our trademark low fares," she said.

The airline operates its Busan-Manila flights every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The company said its trips to Incheon, also in South Korea, and Pusan were only one-fifth of the fares of other Philippine carriers, and one-fourth of those of foreign carriers.

Asked to name the Manila-Busan service, Iyog said: "Our five-hour flights to Busan's Kimhae Intnl. leave daily from Incheon to Manila and daily from Incheon to Cebu.

BCDA to Sobrepeña group: Stop making alibis

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BASES Conversion and Development Authority is challenging the Sobrepeña-led Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) to stop making alibis and just start paying the loans on the Camp John Hay property for which it is liable.

In a statement issued yesterday, BCDA vice president for business development and operations Deon Santiago said CJHDevco refused to remit lease payments because of the alleged non-operation of the One Stop Action Center (Osac) at the John Hay Special Economic Zone.

The Osac, managed by BCDA subsidiary John Hay Management Corp., was responsible for giving out the necessary business permits to locators within the economic zone.

Santiago belied CJHDevco's claims, saying the Osac had always been operational and was even serving the needs of other locators, including lands Land Inc. for a business process outsourcing development within the area.

He added that "it was funny that CJHDevco would use the alleged non-operation of the Osac as a reason to not remitting lease payments, as the Sobrepeña-led company used to pay its lease for the John Hay property through P-tables."

From July 2008 to December 2009, for example, lease payments amounted to P139 million, he said.

"CJHDevco is obviously using the Osac as a smokescreen so that they will not pay," he said.

He then challenged CJHDevco to file its application for occupancy permits for its 307 suite units that were completed last February.

"The Osac is ready to issue these permits as soon as we receive from applicants letters that have attached to it proof of payment of such and every unit," he said. "Is CJHDevco feeling something, that's why they are apprehensive to file these occupancy permits?"

Senior CJHDevco personnel were actually documented to have attended several orientations to initiate the Osac, and were aware of the process for the issuance of business and developmental permits within the economic.

LIFESTYLE Food
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

AT THE lunch buffet in Café Jeanne, Chef Pauline Bensaing holds up toy barrels of paint, so Binggo delicacy of coconut sugar mixed with coconut milk.

Chicken 'binakol'

Like all Ilonggo cooking, this soup has the taste of Old World cooking—hearty, rich, flavorful

By Norma O. Chikiamco
Contributor

ILOILO IS one province that can rightfully be proud of its cuisine. Its rich culinary heritage includes the finest examples of regional dishes: spring rolls with fillings of julienned batuta or palm (fresh *lumpiang sariwa*); charcoal-grilled chicken marinated in spicy vinegar (*chicken inasal*); chicken soup with dumplings (*pancit molo*); and noodle soup of pork broth topped with bits of fried garlic, chopped spring onions and crumbled chicharron (*batchoy*).

Until June 26, Café Jeanne at Hotel InterContinental is serving many of these Ilonggo dishes at its lunch and dinner buffets. Supervising their preparation is Chef Pauline Germon-Bensaing, an Iloilo native who has studied in the best cooking schools in the US.

"They're mostly heirloom recipes that have been with Ilonggo families for years," the wife of the tempting parade of dishes on the buffet table. And, indeed, Iloilo cuisine has the tone of Old World cooking—heavy and rich, with the flavors skillfully created and harmonized through long hours of marination, or slow, patient simmering, or with the diligent use of the freshest ingredients.

According to Pauline, Ilonggos tend to be chauvinistic, not just in terms of family heritage but also when it comes to home cooking.

"Each does thinks their dishes are the best," she says. Moreover, she adds, Ilonggos prefer prestigious home cooking over others, more sophisticated food. That idea of a fusion option, for instance, is simply everyday fare prepared by the family cook.

"Their basic table would usually just have rice, fish(es), (sinigang), pinakbet (salmon cooked in vinegar) and chicken *binakol* (chicken-coconut soup)."

Iloilo being a coastal province, it's also known for its seafood. On the buffet during the press lunch was a special kind of clams which Ilonggos have named coconut shells because they first showed up in the savanores during the celebration of the Philippines' centennial year. With rough shells and a strange appearance, they looked like a cross breed of scallops and oysters, and were just as delicate as both besides. To make sure they would be served fresh for lunch that day, "someone came in the wee hrs this morning to gather them," says Pauline.

Because sugar is a major crop in their province, Ilonggos also love baking sweet delicacies. "Iloilo a newbie is cake, a thick, dark brown liquid that's a combination of evaporated sugar and coconut milk. It can be spooned directly from bamboo barrels and eaten as it, or one can use it to sweeten coffee. Host, stop enticing it yema cake, with an egg yolk base as think and gooey as the candy, topped with swirls of fresh white icing.

Here's Pauline's recipe for one of Iloilo's famous soups, chicken binakol. While it's traditionally cooked in bamboo segments, Pauline says it can be cooked in a casserole as well. (Iloilo cuisine is served as part of the lunch and dinner buffet at Café Jeanne until June 26. For reservations, call 7929000.)

Chicken Binakol

The base of coconut juice makes this an unusual soup, being rather sweet instead of savory. Once the soup is fully cooked, the chips of coconut flesh will reconstitute about medium, adding richness and texture to the dish.

Makes 4-6 servings

For the coconut sauce and juice:

4.5 whole young coconuts (see note)

For the chicken:

1 L chicken, cut into serving pieces

1 onion, chopped

2 stems lemongrass

1 chicken broth cube

Salt and pepper to taste

2 carrots, cubed (optional)

1 bell pepper, cut into strips (optional)

LORAINE G.I.

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Yucatan pulled pork 'puri,' Moroccan lamb stew, glazed yogurt cheesecake—all right in Rockwell

IT'S BEEN crazy in Vancouver these days. The local team, the Vancouver Canucks, is playing for the champ. onship of the Stanley Cup, the highest award all teams aspire for in the ro. mantic exciting and nerve-wracking game of hockey.

If you think basketball is exciting, watch this sport with a team you're cheering for. The game is so fast, at times a goal is scored and you don't even see how it happened. I just watch the fans sometimes to know that when I see them lose and cross their hands, a goal has just been scored. No wonder a lot of fans end up in the hospital from extreme tension.

Roberto Lounge is the gentle and the biggest star of the Canucks team. Every time Lounge makes a save, the whole coliseum shouts, "Lounge!" Whenever I hear this, my mind flies back to Manila, to a lately now retired cen.ter Rochevell in Makati.

Lu opened its doors not too long ago and has begun reaping stars. The place really has no particular type of cuisine, but if I were to give it my verdict, I'd say it leans toward Middle Eastern cooking and some comfort food mixed in.

When we were there, we started off with a nice refreshing peach juice. We then ordered a few mixed appetizers that I thought were very interesting. We had Yucatan pulled pork puri, which are tender strips of pork with sour garlic sauce, beef strips with pepper sauce, which mixed with herb aromas, and Chicken cuapao served with steamed buns with sweet soy chicken. All of these are worth trying.

I also had the stuffed mac and cheese, but felt it needed more work.

Then we shifted to the mostly Moroccan inspired main dishes. Mr. guet, so I know it, is a spicy lamb sausage with a lot of paprika. Served on creamy baguette, I would have this with Dijon mustard while noshing the rest around it. Michel ate the left hunk of theirs.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Ilacer

It's Middle Eastern fare with comfort food thrown in at the newly opened Lu Restaurant

Favorite part

I love marquez. Here, Lu served it with lentils, chickpeas, tender chunks of lamb with some sliced hard pasta. My favorite part of lamb is the shank. At Lu, the lamb shank was served in an unusually white-colored sauce made with dill and pepper. On the side, it had vermicelli and flavored basmati rice. The flavors were great.

I love my shank almost falling of the bone. Another dish I was craving was the apricot and pistou Moroccan lamb stew. Interesting as we liked Hainanese chicken and turmeric chicken, too. There were many others on the menu, but my tummy could only take so much.

For dessert, we were served lemon glazed yogurt cheesecake that was light, creamy and delightful. Loved it. Something that looked as simple but would attract any kid was the peanut butter and jelly cars. While this, I remember the food critic in the movie "Ratatouille," whose one bite on a dish brought him back to his childhood. That's what this dish did to me.

I plan to do a Manchebao and try the other interesting looking dishes. Ask the pretty lady owners as recommended.

No matter what happens to the battery Cap finish, I still always remember the other version of Lumiere!

Happy eating!

Lu is at G/F, Ayala Bldg., Ayala Avenue at Rockwell in Makati; tel. 6212991.

Braised whole baby abalone with oyster sauce

FRIENDS GARDEN'S seasoned chefs from Hong Kong prepared a special set menu for Father's Day.

Set started with two kinds of appetizer and warm the heart (and the stomach with Creamy Assorted Seafood with Pumpkin Soup. For the house specialty—Whole Peking Duck. Other special dishes include Crispy Minced Prawns, Braised Whole Baby Abalone with Oyster Sauce, Stir Fried Mixed Vegetables with Dried Scallop and Egg White. For dessert, there's mashed bean pancakes and chilled mango shake with sago. For every order of this special Father's Day set menu for 12 persons, get a bottle of Beringer wine, compliments of the house.

Friends Garden is open daily for lunch and dinner and has two outlets located at 2/F, Dr. Nieves Park, North Edsa, QC (tel. 9705922 /9705921 and 44); Greenbelt 5, Phase 2, Ayala Center, Makati City (tel. 7268867 /7268868).

Kobe Steak Teppanyaki

This Father's Day, treat your dad at Kimpura with its classic Kobe Steak Teppanyaki served with Japanese pickles, tossed green salad, soup, steamed rice and dessert, at 25 percent off. The restaurant offers a variety of a la carte dishes. Open daily for lunch and dinner, Kimpura is located on 2/F, Greenbelly Park, QC (tel. 9094888, 9919982). Greenbelt 5, Shopping Center (tel. 7718874, 7218882 and 44), Greenbelt 5, Phase 2, Ayala Center, Makati.

Tiboy Yakitori

Tatay no. One has prepared the tastiest after Chicken Yakitori grate-lovers treat for dads this Father's Day.

From June 19 until July 31, Tatay no. One is serving the dad-sized skewers of juicy and succulent chicken thigh fillet grilled to perfection. Served with sesame, mayonnaise and sweet-chili-spiced dipping sauce, Tatay no. One's Chicken Yakitori is priced at P220. Three-piece Chicken Yakitori is priced at P140. To ensure, order eight pieces Yakitori for only P380.

Mocha Macadamia Cheesecake

Cheesecake Fix, silken sugar-free Mocha Macadamia Cheesecake for Dad.

The cheesecake has a smooth velvety texture that melts in the mouth. Each cheesecake uses Philadelphia cream cheese, fresh and natural ingredients, and balanced small quantities to ensure consistent quality. Cheesecake Fix also has a wide array of guilt-free delights, such as low-fat blueberry cheesecake as well as sugar-free white chocolate pistachio, peppermint chocolate and raspberry cheesecake. Cheesecake Fix also serves pastas, salads, soups, sandwiches and traditional Filipino rice meals.

Pasta con Salmone

Trattoria Italiana Manila offers a hearty Italian lunch or dinner at Lattitude with a menu specially made to warm dads' hearts. Start the hearty of flavors with an entrée that includes shrimp accompanied by a vibrantly chiffonnaise cheese and salads. Indulge in a tasty adventure with the delightful aroma of spices from Lasa classic noodles Lisa remixed.

Main courses include Pasta con Salmone, Barbecued Baby Back Pork Ribs, Pampanga Lechon Kawali and Roast Prime Rib, among others. Also, dads can enjoy a free bottle of wine for every group of four at P800 per person only, or an accumulated amount of P3,000. For reservations, call 6251111 or 6510-026/3001.

Crossover brunch

Everyone's dad at South Point Manila's Sunday family Crossover Brunch. Enjoy the gastronomic journey and savor the best of Italian cuisine at Trevis. The cuisines of Binondo, Japanese dishes at Umu, Asian and international delicacies at Bistro. The host 200 dads making it the Father's Day Crossover Brunch are entitled to join the dad-a-cize activity, which enables them to participate in one of the gift items. Call 2338888.

DINING OUT

PEKING Garden's Braised Whole Baby Abalone with Oyster Sauce

THIS Father's Day, Le Cinco de France (LCDF) is once again showing its creativity and passion for great cooking with its Dad's Favorite Delight. The selection, a traditional Australian beef steak, breaded and deep-fried, has given the LCDF twist. LCDF's Dad's Delight Schnitzel is served with fingerroot pilaf rice, baked tomato and pepper gravy, served with a can of soda. It is now available in LCDF's branches all over the metro until July 31.

ASSORTED DESSERTS

Blackbeard's Seafood Island offers squid, crabs by the basket, Sizzling Bulalo, Pinoy Sinigang, Pork BBQ, Crispy Dinty, Grilled Liempo, Bulalo Barbeque, Sinigang na Baka, Kare-Kare, Crispy Pata, among others. Call 7309904, 3111334, 981 2600, 9113494, 8887492, 9113751 and 7112966.

WAGYU STEAK SANDWICH

Duck get free Wagyu Beef Kenbo'ion Carpaccio or Wagyu Steak Sandwich at Chicento Ristorante Italiano this Father's Day weekend, June 18-19, for a minimum of four dining guests per table. Reservations recommended. Chicento Ristorante Italiano is at 2/F N. Garcia (former Reposo St.), Brgy. Bel-Air, Makati. Call 8990620.

RIB-EYE STEAK

Surprise dad with a special steak meal—Pan-Grilled Regular Rib-Eye Steak served with curry side up 499, barbecue gravy and choice of either "mash" potatoes or potato wedges at Pancake House. The restaurant will offer a premium Baby Back Ribs served in either half or full dish, with several choices of side dishes. Select one from among the de available side dishes: mashed potatoes, coleslaw, potato salad, corn & carrots, rice, French fries. The Special Steak Meal is offered June 19-July 31.

PANDAN-WRAPPED CHICKEN

For authentic Thai-style fare, grab Gab Oh Bai Toey (pandan-wrapped chicken) at Jaas Thai. The mild chili sauce and sweet tomato sauce make it a perfect match for Jaas Thai's at Burgos Circle, Forbes Town Center, The Fort; call 4038718 for reservations.

ADOBO CHICKEN PIZZA

California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) gives you a reason to make any day with dad extra special when you get a pizza coupon with each visit to CPK. Just visit any CPK brunch today until July 3, and receive a free pizza coupon for a P500 minimum food purchase. Simply present the coupon on your next visit to any CPK restaurant and select from one of the following choices: Original BBQ Chicken Pizza, Adobo Chicken Pizza, Hawaiian Barbecue Chicken Pizza and Buffalo Chicken Pizza. For more details, check out http://www.facebook.com/CPKPhilippines or log on to http://www.cpk.com.ph.

CELEBRATE Father's Day at Blufish with its bestseller dishes—Paella, Crab Singapura, Moroccan Sea Bass stuffed with couscous, served with roasted vegetables, and Oyster Rockefeller. Grand Father's Day Buffet is available June 19, 4 p.m., and, on June 19, lunch and dinner freebies await all dads. Blufish on G/L, Eastwood Mall. For inquiries, call 9355886.

BEEF WITH PESTO

This Father's Day, Texas Roadhouse Grill features Meat Lover Meals. It offers Pot Roast (P475), braised grilled ribeye tips served with crunchy onion-seasoned vegetables and Texas-Mash roasted potatoes. There's Fort Worth Beef Tenderloin (P595), grilled beef tenderloin smothered in mushroom gravy sauce and served with the freshest steamed veggies and roasted potatoes. Get a load of the Stuffed Pork Loin (P385), boneless pork chops stuffed with cheese and ham, topped with garlic cream sauce. Or you can have dad try Beef with Pesto (P475), tender 10-hanger steak marinated and grilled then topped with house-made pesto sauce and plenty of garlic, also served with fresh steamed veggies and roasted potatoes. For reservations, call 8104-1567, 4884715.

CRAVINGS has prepared a special dish for Dad—Chicken Wings bowl, specially marinated and grilled chicken wings. Also on Father's Day, Kabisera on Dencio also comes up with "Pampanga" dishes to whet dad's appetite on his special day. Dishes include Pork and Squid Sinuglow, a traditional Kapan delicacy consisting of grilled pork tenga and grilled squid, marinated in special sauce with cucumber, onions, bell pepper, and coconut milk topped with crispy fried camaron. Other favorites at Kabisera include Kare-Kare, Malunggay Kinipay Pata, Bulalo Bulalo Gulay, Sinampalukang Lechon Manok, among others. These special Dad's Day dishes are available until July 31.

Spotlight on premium New Zealand wines

THE PENINSULA Manila welcomes Tony Peddyclip chair of Craggy Range Winery from Auckland, in a special evening in Old Manila restaurant to...due to showcase seven exceptional wines.

Those include the vintage Craggy Range Sophia Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Gimblett Gravels Vineyard, Hawkes Bay 2006 and Craggy Range "Le Sol" Syrah, Gimblett Gravels Vineyard, Hawke's Bay 2008.

"The Peninsula is honored to present seven extraordinary wines from renowned Craggy Range Winery from Auckland, which has a rich history of family tradition and legacy of excellence. This gala evening offers a unique dining experience that will enable guests to understand the terroir shared by the land and the winery to maximize supreme quality and to uphold their founding values," says Rom Sto, director of food and beverage.

Old Manila chef de cuisine Samuel Linsley says, "This menu has been designed with the distinct qualities of these exemplary wines in mind. The Arctic Sea Scallops, for example, is paired with rose Craggy Range wines to offer a side by side taste comparison, which highlights the multiple dimensions of the wines to reinforce their unique depth and notes."

The gala evening begins with a cocktail reception at 7 p.m., followed by a special introduction to the wines by Peddyclip. At 7:45 p.m., a specially created five-course menu will be served and paired with seven exemplary wines, which include Craggy Range Riesling, Fletcher Family Vineyard, Marlborough 2010; Craggy Range Sauvignon Blanc, Te Muna Road Vineyard, Martinborough 2009; Craggy Range Chardonnay, Gimblett Gravels Vineyard, Hawke's Bay 2009; Craggy Range Pinot Noir, Te Muna Road Vineyard, Martinborough 2009; Craggy Range "Le Sol" Syrah, Gimblett Gravels Vineyard, Hawke's Bay 2008; Craggy Range "Sophia" Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Gimblett Gravels Vineyard, Hawkes Bay 2008; and Craggy Range Noble Riesling, Fletcher Family Vineyard, Marlborough 2008.

For inquiries or to reserve reservations, call 8872888, loc. 6748 (Old Manila) and 6004 (Executive Restaurant) or e-mail cbraggen@peninsula.com.

Chicken 'binakol'

From page C1

Prepare the coconuts:

Pour the juice from the coconuts into a large bowl and measure enough to make 6 cups. Scrape out the flesh from 3 of the coconut shells. Set aside.

Cook the chicken:

In a large casserole, put the chicken, onion, lemongrass and chicken broth cube. Heat in the prepared 6 cups of coconut juice and the coconut meat. Bring to a boil and simmer until chicken is tender, around 20-25 minutes.

Season to taste with salt and pepper. If using carrots and bell pepper, add them during the last 5 minutes of cooking. Transfer to a soup tureen or ladle into individual soup bowls and serve immediately.

(For more recipes, tips and stories, log on to www.normachikiamo.com. Or visit on that's fun page, www.facebook.com/normachikiamo)

Cook's tips

- Whole young coconuts are available in the wet markets and in Landmark, Rustan's and SM supermarkets.
- When scraping the coconut flesh from the shells, do not scrape too deeply so as not to include the brown husk.
- If desired, reserve the empty coconut shells and serve the soup in the shells.
- Cut the lemongrass stalks into shorter pieces if they're too long. Slices then are used only to add flavor and fragrance and are not to be eaten, you can remove them from the soup before serving.
- Instead of a whole chicken, you can also use your favorite chicken parts such as drumsticks and wings.

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June 22-26 (Vista Mall, Greenhills)

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June 10-12 (SM Rosales)
June 17-19 (SM Baguio, SM Tarlac, SM Lucena)
June 24-26 (SM Rosario Cavite, SM San Pablo, SM Naga)

Visayas
June 17-19 (SM Bacolod, SM Iloilo, SM Cebu)

Mindanao
June 17-19 (SM Cagayan de Oro)
June 24-26 (Robinson's General Santos)

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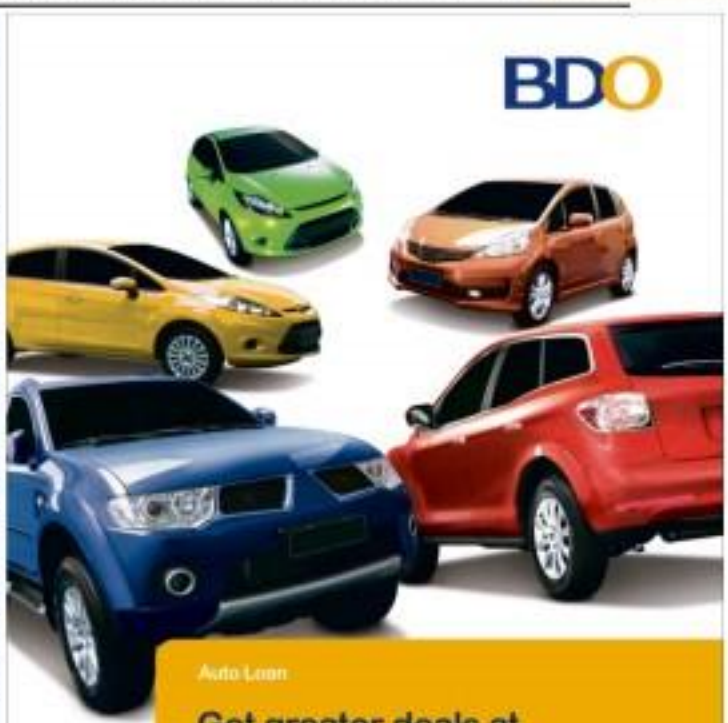

From breakfast to desserts, select recipes for Dad

MARK DAD feel even more loved with these select recipes from The Maya Kitchen Traditional Beef Pot Pie is an unmistakable crumbles flood and Banana Cream Pie with Caramel Fudge rounds up this simple but special meal for the man of the house.

For more recipes, other culinary videos and course schedule, log on to www.themayakitchen.com.

Beef Pot Pie

Filling:
½ kilo beef tenderloin, cut into cubes
Maya All-Purpose Flour
½ c butter
3 tbsp crushed garlic
1 c sliced mushrooms
3 tbsp red onion
1 c mushroom stock
¼ c cornstarch
¼ c chopped fried bacon
Pastry:
2 ½ c Maya All-Purpose Flour
1 tbsp garlic powder
1 c butter (1 – 225g box)
½ c cream cheese
Prepared egg wash for brushing crust

Dredge beef in flour. Set aside. Heat butter then sauté garlic. Add beef and cook until browned. Add mushroom and stir fry for a minute. Heat in the stock and mushroom stock mixture, then add bacon and bacon. Cook until mixture is slightly thickened.

Preheat oven at 350°F (175°C). Prepare three 5-inches ramekins. Set aside.

To a bowl, sift flour and garlic powder together. Cut in butter and cream cheese. Gather dough into a ball then divide in two portions, one bigger than the other. Roll out the bigger portion in 1/8-inch thick. Cut into 3 in rounds. Fit into the muffin pans. Fill with the cooled beef mixture. Roll out the remaining dough. Use as top crust for pot pie...make slit at center of crust to serve as steam vent. Brush with egg wash then bake until brown.

Yield: 3 pieces

Banana Cream Pie with Caramel Fudge

Pastry:
1 pack Maya Complete "Quick n' Easy" Hotcake Mix 200g
1 tbsp cocoa powder
4 tbsp water
Filling:
¼ c sugar
3 tbsp Maya Cornstarch
1 ½ c evaporated milk
1 pc egg yolk, slightly beaten
1 tbsp butter
½ tsp vanilla
3 pcs ripe banana (frozen), sliced into rounds
Caramel Fudge:
1 c whipping cream
2 tbsp powdered sugar
¼ c sugar
½ c softened butter

Preheat oven at 400°F (205°C). Combine Maya Complete Hotcake Mix with cocoa powder. Add water, mix tablespoon at a time, enough to form a ball of dough. Roll out to 9-in pie plate. Bake until golden brown. Cool. Prepare filling. Combine sugar and cornstarch. Gradually stir in evaporated milk. Cook over double boiler, stirring constantly until mixture thickens. Remove from heat. Gradually stir half of the mixture into the beaten egg yolk. Put back in saucepan and blend. Cook until mixture coats spoon. Blend in butter and vanilla. Cool.

In a bowl, whip half of the cream with powdered sugar until stiff. Chill. In a saucepan, caramelize sugar in low heat then add butter and remaining all purpose cream.

To assemble: Layer half of banana into pie plate, then pour the filling. Arrange remaining half of banana and cover and drizzle caramel fudge. Garnish with whipped cream if desired.

Yield: 8-10 servings

BEEF Pot Pie

BANANA Cream Pie with Caramel Fudge

LIFESTYLE Food

Butter Ginger Crab Claws, Beef Ribs Adobado, Salmon Carpaccio—adventurous food tripping at Venice Piazza

12 restaurants, 12 dishes, from appetizer to dessert—all for P550

By Margie Baga-Reyes

JUST A passport and you're free to travel the world to eat, or to speak.

But, in the newest foodie destination at the picturesque Venice Piazza at McKinley Hill, you get to taste and savor some of the most delectable dishes from 12 themed restaurants the mall has carefully picked for you.

All the way from appetizer (starter) to dessert (gelato) with a mix of Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Mexican, Filipino influences, the 12 restaurants aim to wow all kinds of appetites, big and small. Family, barkadas, silbirnoners, small groups, etc. around the area are the target market for this food journey that happens every Saturday night, 6.30 p.m., till July 30.

"Traditionally, families go out on Saturday nights," says Kevin Tan, Megaworld's first vice president and commercial division head. "It's cultural for Filipinos. That's why we came up with a concept that's different from the usual dining out to round out a bit from the rest."

Aptly dubbed "Food Adventure," the project at Venice Piazza is a first of its kind and hasn't been done in other Megaworld's property malls. So far, since it kicked off three Saturdays ago, people have been talking about it, and those who have already tried the adventure still can't get over the experience and satisfaction of enjoying the food and getting their money's worth.

"Sure, anyone can go to a mall to have dinner at a restaurant, but this dining area is very unique existing. You get to eat a variety of really good food from our top restaurants," Tan says.

It's a food trip, in the truest sense of the word.

The adventure go like this: You buy a Food Adventure passport worth P550 from a booth near the main entrance of Venice Piazza Atrium. There, present the passport to the participating restaurants and you'll be served the featured dish automatically.

You can try the food samplers in no particular order—either start with an appetizer of crab claws or fried spring rolls, or go straight to the main course of beef ribs adobado, or toast your palate with the mango pannacotta.

Each serving is good for one person, but there some dishes whose portions are almost for sharing.

Preferred dish

"My tip is to start with your favorite food at once, then

ACTIVITY

ABS-CBN's Butter Ginger Crab Claws, Gail Magsaysay-Ayala's Kinilaw Duo: "My tip is to concentrate your favorite food at once."

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Nothing is more aging than having loose, sagging skin and wrinkles. Take off 5 years from your face with **ReFirme**. It's an anti-aging treatment that firms and tightens your skin as it erases lines and wrinkles with the next generation of ELOS technology. After a quick 45-minute session, your sags and droops are tightened and your lines and wrinkles are reduced. It's the best way to backtrack your years without the fuss.

Acne scars and pockmarks

Acne scars and pockmarks on your skin are ugly. They make you look haggard and less attractive than you actually are. In as fast as 20 minutes, you can have clearer, smooth-looking skin again. **Renew** is a breakthrough innovation in fractional laser treatments. The patented DAP technology erases acne scars and boosts aging skin 400% times faster than any other treatment. Achieve skin clarity and look years younger in just 20 minutes!

Excess pounds and fat

So you're ready to shed those extra pounds and fat the fast and easy way? This isn't a problem with **Fat Mobilization System**. It's a hassle-free treatment that lets your body burn up to 2,500 calories in a 20-minute session while you're lying down. Amazingly, the calorie-burning can continue up to 2 days after your sessions. It's a proven way to lose the fat and pounds, for good!

Back fat and love handles

Despite the rigorous diets and workouts, there are still fat rolls in your back and abdominal areas that make you look and feel heavy. US-FDA approved **CoolSculpting** is the latest fat reduction and body shaping treatment that gets rid of stubborn bulges on any part of your body. It eliminates fat cells and trims down bulges using the Zeltiq advanced cooling technology. You're guaranteed a 22.4% of fat layer reduction in the targeted area in just one treatment. You'll have a totally re-sculpted body in no time!

Now is the best time to give your looks an upgrade! Call FOH NOW at **813-7909** for a FREE private consultation today.

KARAAGE and Kaiseki Bites (Ramen Bar)

SALMON Carpaccio (Old Vine Grille)

VIETNAMESE Spring Rolls (Little Asia)

Butter Ginger Crab Claws . . .

From page B1

gradually move to try other delights," suggests Tan. "This way you're not too full or bloated before you get to your preferred dish. Pacing is also important."

Depending on your craving, you can begin the journey with Hacao Steamboat and Bar's Baked Oysters with hollandaise sauce and served on a bed of spiced chili rock salt and star anise.

Right beside Pinchos is Blackwood Bistro, where the refreshing Crab and Mango Salad awaits you. The salad has nice, crunchy lettuce blended with ripe mangoes, strawberries, cherry tomatoes, basil, arugula and fresh crab meat.

Take your time to enjoy Red Crab's Butter Ginger Crab Claws. Five pieces with lots and lots of chopped ginger and garlic swimming in melted butter and then move on to a heavier meal of Beef Ribs Adobado by Enzo. Dream Larry Cornes is proud to serve his best-selling beef ribs prepared adobo-style. The dish of meat is especially tender, falling off the bone with a bit of sweetness to the sauce.

Old Time Grille's Salmon Carpaccio can be an ideal pair for the meat. The home-cured fresh salmon is peppered with chopped shallots, basil and drizzled with extra virgin olive oil.

If you want a tomato-based meatal, hop in and enjoy Enzo Joel and Bernadette's Baked Macaroni with Orange Summer Salad. The baked mac is deliciously served in a ramekin and accompanied with cool, citrus greens.

"We've made sure all the tamed dishes complement each other," says Enzo Diaz-Sta. Maria-Llanes, Megaworld commercial division communication manager. "We don't want to confuse your taste buds."

To draw you down a bit in your food journey, a perfect ending is Ramen Bar's Kakuni Buns and Karaage. The restaurant has gained a reputation as one of the most authentic Japanese ramen houses in the country, and its sweet buns imbued with the melt-in-your-mouth pork belly is to-die-for.

Sweet Ben's Quesadillas and Buffalo Wings are also worth trying because they're light and savory. The warm meal comes with ranch dressing, garlic sauce, guacamole and salsa.

There are two choices for Little Asia: Minced Chicken with Lettuce Cups (ground chicken with chestnuts, mushrooms, carrots and celery with lettuce leaves) or Vietnamese Spring Rolls (traditional Vietnamese fried spring rolls stuffed with glass noodles, pork, crab and mushrooms and served with Nuoc Cham dipping sauce). Both are delicious and quite filling. Pinchos also has Fried Spring Rolls for you to enjoy.

Those with an affinity for sweets can cap the meal at two fantastic dessert places: Sa Buddy by BTIC Libation Bar serves a Banana Bar's Kakuni Buns and Karaage. The restaurant has gained a reputation as one of the most authentic Japanese ramen houses in the country, and its sweet buns imbued with the melt-in-your-mouth pork belly is to-die-for.

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BUTTER GI

BAKED Macaroni with Orange Summer Salad (Empire Deli and Restaurant)

BEEF Ribs Adobado (Enzo)

FEATURED: Butterscotch and Pistachio Ice Cream (Sa Buddy)

QUESADILLAS and Buffalo Wings (Sweet Ben)

BAKED Oysters (Pinchos)

CRAB and Mango Salad (Blackwood Bistro)

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'The future of coffee' in an all-in-one machine

KITCHEN RESCUE

Maggie Aquino

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf contraption can dispense 70 types of hot and cold drinks—it's like having your own barista at home

MALDEN Ow

If a TIME when everything seems to be convenient, Jim Obiago explores our imagination and make us pause to say—wait a minute, now that is what I consider really awesome!

Like having a live-in barista at your beck and call, without having to live with the person's pseudo-schizophrenia. That is what he finds in a single-serve beverage system, better known as a "capsule" coffee machine that not only dispense espresso, but brews tea as well.

It doesn't end there. The machine comes with a "feature" that makes the foam for your cappuccino or mocha milk for your coffee or tea lovers. I am told that machine can dispense 70 types of hot and cold drinks. If you include the pouches, syrups and sauces, with more capsule blends being developed.

This, too good to be true pause, the kind that really wakes a the brainchild of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, who, in the late decades, helped bring the incredible rise in consumer demand for the coffeehouse experience. And this is exactly what CBTL wanted to do—extend its brand and distinct coffee experience beyond its stores and into your own home.

According to Philbert Chu, president of CBTL Philippines: "Together with Coffindy we came up with 'the future of coffee in one single place' platform. You see, basically, we want all the best drinks offered by The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. There is no other way to enjoy the world's top one percent of coffee and tea products ever to exist than through these capsules."

With the tastes and flavors of CBTL, plus the espresso technology and design expertise of Coffindy this machine, I admit, is hard to resist.

I decided when someone quipped: "This is a coffee and tea machine on speed!"

I have used the machine myself, and it is so simple to use. The slot for the coffee/tea capsule is done in such a way that it is impossible for users to get it wrong.

After the capsule is inserted, push the three drink dial choose from any of the three settings—espresso, long espresso or the brewed coffee or tea buttons. Voilà! Your beverage is ready!

Moreover, if you want a cappuccino, latte, then hitting the espresso button, next frothing your milk with the frothier, which takes less than two minutes. Then, for that coffee house-style perfect cappuccino.

Impressed

I was actually impressed by my Chai Latte. All I had to do was insert the chai tea capsule, then pour in water a glass. Then I turned on a sachet of CBTL vanilla and topped it with steamed soy milk. Phenomenal!

If my comparisons serves me right, the latte is P40 cheaper than if I had gone to a CBTL store. On top of that, I didn't have to change, spend for gas and drive, nor was I required to wear my office attire. I might just save on my way to a CBTL outlet. During the month this way, I saved way more than P400.

The latest CBTL capsule offerings are Espresso Italiano, Premium, Premium Decaf and Continental, Brewed French, House Blend, Whittard, House Blend Decaf, Tea English Breakfast, Tea of Passion, Moroccan Mint.

For your blended beverages, CBTL now sells French Deluxe Vanilla Powder and Special Blend Chocolate Powder in sachets. These help guarantee a consistent drink.

The genius has worked out as much as long while. Even before you've finished consuming it, it is a device for those who love to entertain, and a new toy for every coffee or tea connoisseur who like happier to be applied aficionado.

Owning one is literally enjoying all the perks of being at a specialty coffee and tea house, but within the confines of our home, with just a flick of a finger.

Introductory price is P13,750. There are also interest-12 months interest! Call 477-CBTL for information.

Mocha or Vanilla Latte, 12 oz

One espresso capsule of your choice, milk, one sachet of Special Dutch chocolate powder (for mocha) or one sachet of French Deluxe Vanilla powder (for vanilla).

- Heat milk into the CBTL Milk Frother to super creaminess level and heat using the espresso.
- Extract a espresso capsule into a cup by pressing the "small cup" espresso button.
- Whisk in one sachet of chocolate or vanilla powder.
- Add frothed milk to fill the cup to ¾ inch below rim, then top with foam.
- To make tea latte, substitute coffee to one capsule of choice.

Cafe au Lait, 12 oz

One coffee capsule, milk.

- Pour milk into frother to maximum level and heat using the spindle tip.
- Extract coffee into a cup by pressing the "large cup" brew button.
- Add frothed milk to fill the cup to ¾ inch below rim, then top with foam.

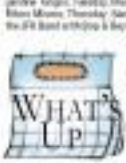
All recipes will be available at the CBTL website.

Apologies to my friend, architect Gene Ilos, whose tablet I changed to lower last week.

For my new cooking class schedule, call 0917-5167749, 0908.2772545, 8098898, 5280096. E-mail the author at mgaquino@inquirer.com.ph.

CBTL Single-Serve Beverage System comes in four colors and two models.

Charlie's bares musical lineup



Baking and cake-decorating classes

Manila food and beverage expo

Butter Ginger Crab Claws, Beef Ribs Adobado ...

Cook-out

The Gift of Cheese Lovers Club white Philippines as Bongsanchi, Bulo Resorts Spring were filled up on top the Greenwich Xtreme Cheese Pizza.

Cheese lovers say CHEESE with Greenwich Xtreme Cheese Pizzas

A cheesy tale

Finding the 'big cheese' in Greenwich

At one time, the national hero asked his mother to send him 'terrinas de foie-gras,' expensive then as it is now

RIZAL (left) dining with friends at the studio of Juan Luna in Paris in 1891

José Rizal's favorite dishes as gleaned from his Dapitan letters

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

AS I WRITE this, I look forward to my visit to Dapitan in Zamboanga del Norte, where national hero José Rizal lived in exile from 1892-1896. It certainly is good timing to savor the century commemorate the 150th birth anniversary this year of Rizal, who was born on June 19, 1861.

Accounts have it that he accomplished so much in those four years. He built his home made of bamboo. He planted fruit trees around the perimeter of his residence. He established a school. He practiced medicine and was renowned for his eye operations. He built an aqueduct, a feat of engineering considering he had no heavy duty tools.

More interesting, however, is what readers learn features, such as his requests for Food from his family as gathered from his letters documented in "Reminiscences and Travels of José Rizal" (1977), and "One Hundred Letters of José Rizal to his Parents, Brothers, Sisters, Relatives" (1958), both published by the National Historical Institute.

Rizal requested his mother, Teodora Alonso, for carinosa, to send him sinigang (guava flavor, mangoes and "terrinas de foie gras." The choice, of course, is made very well in his home province, Laguna. Hilginos will always miss mangoes. The foie gras made me smile because it must have been an exercise in it's own. I myself have reminded him of his visit to Juan Luna in his studio in Paris. The photograph in this column was sent by Ambeth Ocampo, who surmised that this must have been when the "Pinoys attended the Paris Expo" in 1889. Rizal requested the same food items in a letter to his friend, Blumentritt.

What was available and what they cooked also made for interesting reading. He wrote to another sister, Trinidad, that there were so many fruits to eat such as pineapples, avis and mangoes. He said he ate beef rarely and that he slaughtered one chicken a month. Both were extreme measures, so that he expressed being tired of pork, and because more than five pigs a month were slaughtered, there was much more lard than the household could use even if he gave some away.

In the same letter, he wrote that "fish is becoming scarce, and we only have shrimps and small shrimps." Vegetables were also said because Rizal hadn't been planting anymore. That's probably why he told his sister, Maria, that they had to move inland and requested for "salitre (any brine called), sampaga and dried small fish."

Rizal's brother Brothers who kept house for Rizal in Dapitan, Wine R, as he called her, makes certain Sinigang bread and chilli mixes, adding that she has made so much of the Sinigang and chilli mixes in last 10 years. When Rizal asked for singkol, it was for the Sinigang. When they didn't have noodles for pancit, Wine R made a kind of long rice-

rice noodles out of flour and eggs, which serves the purpose."

In the last Christmas he spent in Dapitan, Rizal wrote: "We killed a small pig and a hen; we invited our neighbors; there was dancing; we laughed a great deal until dawn. We did not sleep on 31 December until the New Year."

It is in another book where we learned about a dish served by Rizal to his confessor and sisters who visited him there. Mike Inverso, in "Kanayunan ng Kalulo ng Dapan" (The Publishing Corp., 1999), wrote that Francisco Rizal Lapeta, a descendant, said that it is wongga soup with the young leaves of camphilot. The hero's sister, Narcisa, surmised that the soup must have contained shrimp, chicken and mushrooms harvested from the area. And probably the captivating addition of pancha for a sweet-ish taste.

Heritage trail

Armed with such information, I make this trip to Dapitan mainly to get a sense of the place. Such visits are encouraged by a program called "Lakbay José Rizal@150," where several sites in the Philippines that has some significance in the national hero's life will be part of what is known as a heritage trail.

(For more information, contact the National Historical Commission at tel. no. 1426-5299/52 or 1442-5833/39, e-mail boat@info.gov.ph.)

For those who will do this heritage trail, perhaps they should bring along a copy of "Noli Me Tangere," Rizal's novel. In it, Rizal shows how much he knows about fish dishes in the chapter about a picnic hosted by the hero, Crisostomo Ibarra, where the resident expert is Anne Isabel of Sharo Clara. On hearing, Whatever was caught in the lake, Anne Isabel indicated according to dish: "The catfish is good for the sinigang. Leave the rice for the escabeche. The sisiig and the frogs boil for the pesa... The baloto is the frying pan! The bangi is to be roasted, wrapped in banana leaves and stuffed with cinnamon."

Intrigued. In last week's column, I said that Ann Leong was here to judge a culinary competition that flew out the next day. That happened in 2004, his first time here. This second visit with his wife, Susan, was to conduct a cooking demo, and then to cook a seven-course dinner.

E-mail pinoyfood@yahoo.com

Food and pampering for Father's Day

PAMPER DAD with an overnight stay at one of Diamond Hotel's luxurious rooms, which includes breakfast for two persons at Cosmic and a 825-min massage at Soot to Bontoog, also good for him.

For only P7,000 net per night, this Father's Month offering (Star June) also includes a complimentary welcome mini bar, free Internet connection for three hours per stay and free use of the gym and swimming pool.

On June 18, Cosmic brings in the best of modern Filipino cuisine as Father's Day coincides with the restaurant's special buffet promotion for June, "Celebration of Filipino Flavors." The buffet will feature local cuisine courtesy of celebrity chef couple Rolando and Jackie Laudico of Bistro Filipino.

The buffet is only for P1,888 net per person, including free flowing beer, house wine or any standard drink of one's choice.

If Dad's tasty woes towards something Japanese, Furaibon Japanese Restaurant

ENTERTAINMENT

Celso Ennrico G. Velarde

Editor's note: ... | Website: ... | E-mail: ...

Send your feedback: ...

LILY Monteverde at the Stella award with Sunday Santa, who was nervous about meeting her again after many years

Archivists group screens vintage youth films at CCP

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Archivists figured the best way to welcome the new school year and promote the cause of film preservation among the young was to present two vintage youth films back-to-back at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The Society of Filipino Archivists for Film (SoFist) paired up Strobe Angeles' 1976 musical "Alma" with Gerard Pesce's 1981 teen romp "Summer Love" in a double bill recently.

Angeles was nervous. "I might fall asleep during the screening," he told the buzzers. "I asked my wife to nudge me, just in case."

Based on the long-running Filipino stage

ARCHIVISTS, E2

Opening night challenge

BACKSTORY

Lito Salvaleon

OPENING night at Cafe Carlyle went such a knock, with a few friends, press people and family members in attendance. The first week went along nicely, with the next performances getting tighter and easier than the last.

It's quite a challenge performing in such an intimate venue, as there's really nothing behind that I can hide. No teleprompters, no auto-tune, no huge sets, no back-up singers, no extra, large orchestra. I just have myself, three musicians and less than a hundred people within spitting distance (And I do mean that literally: I might have landed a few droplets on one poor audience member's soup. So sorry about that, sir). That said, it's very liberating!

Manila staging?

I do hope the opportunity to do some things of this sort will come in Manila. That is just so much fun that I have to replicate the experience!

I'd forever make the most of this while it lasts. We have only until June 25.

Before our first show, we used the afternoon to make sure whatever technical things we have to do...some lighting as well as our sound levels—were exactly right. We all convened at noon at the performance venue for a few hours, going through each spiel, each song and each corresponding lighting cue. But the afternoon wasn't all about work. Whenever we got a

> No teleprompters, no auto-tune, no huge sets, no back-up singers

break, we'd tell a few stories and laugh. The atmosphere was light and breezy—the work never felt like work. After a few hours, I headed up to my room to get a few hours of rest.

Time to get ready came at about 6:30. My makeup artist Yuko Takahashi and her assistant Sawasuna S apologize if I spelled that wrong) arrived to start on my hair and face. Robbi Yuniar, who has designed two gowns for my stint at Cafe Carlyle, came in with dress No. 1, a black sequin cut-silk gown. He also brought jewelry! Dress No. 2, something dramatic in red, will be delivered this week.

One of my agents, Josh Peltz, came upstairs to hang out, in case I needed anything, and one of my managers, David Brenner, along with his uncle Sheldon, brought up presents for me and for friends.

The set itself lasts all of 70 minutes. Audience members can grab an early dinner plus drinks. After I was done performing, I entertained guests by the elevators before finally heading upstairs to get some sleep.

Do you hear the people sing?

Come October, I will be performing in Indianapolis in a concert titled "Do You Hear

OPENING E3

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ALSO FOR

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WALL EVENTS

Dad's Incredible

BIG LOSER Jennifer Hudson before and after her dramatic weight loss

Opening night challenge

From page E1

The Weight Sing," celebrating the collaboration of Alvin Braddell and Claude-Michel Schönberg, the creators of "Les Miserables" and "Miss Saigon," as well as "Martin Guerre," "The Pirate Queen" and their very first musical together, "La Revolution Francaise." Singing the opening solo for that concert are Terrence Mann, Peter Lockyer, Marie Zamora and Stephanie J. Block.

We had our very first rehearsal today. Music Order also happens to be Alain's wife! I brought plenty of provisions: bottled water, fresh cherries and bagels filled with lox and cream cheese. All the singers, around eight, brought food and music from the various musicals, so on one side of the room, while the production team fed, by Jim Bender, our director, sat on the other. Present were a choreographer, lighting designer, two orchestrators (Bill Brohn and Chris Jenkins), a music supervisor (Barbra Dilkes) and various other people whose names I will learn in the course of the production period.

'Fangirly' moment

Since it wasn't a high-pressure rehearsal, none of us blasted our voices to the brick wall. Well, not in the very beginning, after a couple of hours, I think our lead all screamed up enough that the true nature of how we all sing just came out. Everyone was incredible, but my true "fangirly" moment came when Forever sang "Stars" from "Les Mis." He was the original Javert on the Broadway production, so sitting near him from him as he sang this song just blew my mind. Goose bumps overwhelmed me and down my body, and it was just one of those moments one never forgets.

As for Stephanie, I still get tickled pink when I remember how she said I met was back in Los Angeles in 1988. We were both selected to be part of a fundraiser event for a project called Children of the World. Garnet was a part of it as well, along with many child stars of the time. She was placed with the supernova Tiffany, and I was placed with the superstar, Tiffany's former sister-in-law, the captivated the pair of lightlife in the weddings of "Wicked" fame, before Idina Menzel, and grew on to play numerous parts on Broadway. She's worked running.

On another note, The proud dad my brother's orchestration of "Too Much for One Heart," one of the songs on Gloria Mitz. Jaspar" will be performed at the this concert, and that I'll be singing it. Woo-hoo!

Guess this was just the first rehearsal. There will be nips and tucks taking place over the next few months.

Life is getting late and busy—you have until only appreciate the blessing that it is. It makes me realize how much I've missed being here, and I do hope and pray for an extended stay.

Weight loss book by ex-Idol

NEW YORK—Seven-winning 30-time Awards Hudson will write a "weight-loss memoir" after his release in January, Penguin Group's Dutton imprint said on Monday.

Dutton declined to comment on whether Hudson would write about the 2008 shooting murders of her mother, brother and nephew as she as yet untitled book. The estranged husband of Hudson's sister has been charged with the killings.

Hudson, a Grammy Award-winning singer who rose to fame as a regular on "American Idol" in 2004, became the spokesperson for Weight Watchers in April last year and has shed 80 pounds (36 kilograms), the was as down for the 2006 film "Dreamgirls."

Dutton said the book will "chronicle Hudson's experience growing up in an environment where healthy living was not a priority to dealing with talk of her weight as she competed on "American Idol" and won her first Oscar, to her eventual decision to get healthy after the birth of her son, and her success losing weight with the help of Weight Watchers."

The publisher declined to comment on local media reports that Hudson was being paid $1 million for the book.

"Hudson wants to inspire anyone coping with weight issues, share some of her own best tips for losing and maintaining weight loss, fitting in exercise and keeping it fun," Dutton said.

Reuters

Webby Awards, online Oscars

NEW YORK—Humor, online hits and social good blended at The Webby Awards—the Internet industry's version of Hollywood's Oscars.

Addictive game Angry Birds along with the inventor of the mobile phone were among those honored last Monday at a ceremony known for cutting winners' creativity by limiting acceptance speeches to five words.

"Inventions, geeks can be chic," Vogue magazine editor in chief Anna Wintour said after actor Daniel Radcliffe of "Harry Potter" film fame presented her with a Webby for best fashion website.

IBM computer "Watson," renowned for beating top human players on television trivia game show "Jeopardy!," was named "person of the year" at the 15th annual Webby Awards.

"Person of the year, music," a computerized voice speaking for the machine said while receiving a Webby from chess legend Garry Kasparov, who suggested the machine jazz up its image by dating an iPad.

"That was clever," Kasparov retorted. "You've quite the sword processor."

As more serious moments, awards paid tribute to Egyptian protesters who used Twitter and Facebook in a bold uprising to oust Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak and an Ushahidi service launched to map violence that followed a 2008 election in Kenya.

"Injustice, oppression, social media equals revolution," Egyptian filmmaker Mohamed Zizik said in accepting a Webby dedicated to his people. AFP

ANGRY Birds, Bad Piggies Game

US Vogue editor Anna Wintour: "Geniuses, geeks can be chic."

SMOOSH and Mother Lily reunite with "Summer Love" writer Iskha Lopez, left, and director Elwood Perez.

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2 SUPER 8 (3D)
3 GREEN LANTERN
4 FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
FOREVER AND A DAY
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Archivists...

> from page E1

play by Orodio Hagunghon, the musical "was a true indie effort," Angeles related. "We had primitive equipment and no big name stars. The producers, Bally Quintos [of Star Pilipinas], didn't mind losing his shirt for as long as we gave justice to the material." Dodla found "Sinta" among the films in RSC DVDs collection.

The film was so hot Musical to that year's Famas, but "Sinta" was the only musical film that year, Angeles said.

Jun Gabriel Castañeda, son of lead star Catherine Melendez (who was in such dire shape, man shoulders down for Sinta, "I blow my mom was a singer (for Black Making Company), but I had no idea she was so good."

Joel Trinidad, son of Helmbrecht's costar Noel Trinidad (who was recovering in Ghana), said his father "encouraged" him to watch. "Dad lent it was historic, the first time he shared the screen with his 'Chum, pov' partner, Subar Herrera." ("Chumpo" was a groundbreaking gay show in the 1990s.)

'Tears of joy'

At the "Summer Love" screening, Smooky Serna, who was the first to arrive, trembled to join. "I'm scared about meeting with Mother Lily again."

The actress was referring to legal producer Lily Monteverde, who quickly dragged her feet when they saw each other. "Mother Lily has always been partner with me," Smooky said.

After the screening, Mother Lily emerged from the theater weeping. "Tears of joy," she explained. "I feel so happy and humbled by the tribute given to me by Iskha."

She is the first mainstream producer to adopt Iskha as a pet cause, and she made a significant donation to the group.

Iskha presented Mother Lily and daughter Roselle Monteverde with a "restored" copy of the "lost" film.

At the OCP event, Smooky also got to reunite with director Perez and "Summer" scriptwriter Iskha Lopez and character actress Jaime Labalan.

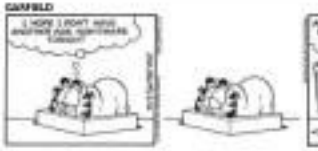
Mother Lily hopes to screen the movie in Taal, Batangas (where it was shot), next summer.

In July, Iskha will show films directed by National Artist Fernando Poe Jr.

E-mail: bayanmusings@hotmail.com

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



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BY PANKO ABRERA

SEIH

BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK

BY IVAN COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS BRAT

TOO BUSY TODAY You're a planner who intends to succeed in the future. You know the value of making plans for tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow. Many of you are objectives-driven people who never lose friends and can, because you always have your eye on the future. You are fortunate. You have the vision. It doesn't right for you all the time powerful your vision. But Dream big.

Birthdate: of: Rod Gutter, therapist-writer, Laura Ashley, actress; John Fitz, actor

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Good plans or anything that has to do with digital education, publishing, the media, medicine and the arts. Early getting intercepted today. Expect considerable out changes. Spring forward.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Before friends with your best or enough. Just be careful collaborating. Unexpected changes to financial arrangements, debt payments or mortgage deals are possible.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Things are very unpredictable today when it comes to dealing with friends and partners. Someone will surprise you. One person might seem more spontaneous than you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Financial overstaff be cautious in matters, cash shortages. Any debts repayed against, needs and equipment breakdowns today. "Shoot" Moves.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Parents need to work vigilant in keeping an eye on their children today. Neighborhood is an excellent period for socializing. Discovery is the key. Be careful with your finances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Your daily routine proves difficult. You will be interrupted today. Someone company might stop by. Minor breakdown could occur in appliances might break down. Expect overspend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is an excellent period day for romance. Spend time with your partner. Be very aware of what you say and where you do it. Pay attention to detail and remember to be kind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be careful with finances today. Keep your budget. Don't over-spend. Treat your self to today. Make sure it's correct. You might find money you might have missing (it's a surprise!).

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You feel restless today and because of this, you may get yourself into something impulsive. You will be in the right mood sometimes to make important plans. Others do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Today the focus is on your work, which is challenged by earthy thinkers. You might find yourself obsessed with colored things. You'll also feel rebellious and unmotivated.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Don't worry if you feel a bit scattered today and not necessarily what to do. Your behavior may seem odd to others. Be careful with your finances. Don't overspend.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Is mixed, especially in a group situation. Help will surprise you today. Emotionally, you might treat someone who is a workmate. The person might act strangely and be dangerous plans.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs visit www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

8	4	5	6	7	3	1	2	9
6	7	3	2	9	1	4	5	8
2	9	1	8	5	4	6	7	3
5	3	8	7	4	6	9	1	2
4	6	2	1	3	9	8	5	7
7	1	9	5	8	2	3	4	6
1	8	6	4	2	5	7	9	3
3	5	4	9	1	7	2	8	6
9	2	7	3	6	8	5	3	1

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

6		2	4					
				7			8	
1			8		9			
3		7				6		
	5						2	
		4				8		9
			5		1			7
	1			3				
					4	9		5

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Stand
5. Ale
8. ___ of the Jedi
12. Gambling game
13. Chief Norse god
14. Auburn feature
15. Expected: Abbr.
16. Lacking a companion
17. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.
18. Ornamental fish
20. Ancient kingdom in Asia Minor
21. Crooked
22. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.
23. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.
24. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.
25. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.
26. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.
27. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.
28. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.
29. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.
30. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.
31. Lawyer's assistant: Abbr.

SINGER-SONGWRITER Carole King performs for "Today" show cohosts Matt Lauer, Meredith Vieira, Al Roker, Ann Curry and Natalie Morales for Wave's last day on the show on June 8 in New York. AP

Life after 'Clara'

By Raymund San Diego Jr.

JULIA MONTES was initially hesitant to accept the role of Clara, spiteful nemesis of Maria in the recently concluded ABS-CBN remake of the soap opera "Maria Clara."

Julia, 36, admitted she was afraid of being typecast as a contravida. Now she hopes for more challenging roles and is eyeing the type of characters previously played by Claudine Barretto.

"I remember watching 'Pasik' on TV," Julia said. In the 2000 movie, Claudine portrayed prodigal daughter to Vilma Santos. "I'd like to play a similar character as I'd be pushed to do something different."

How about Claudine's memorable role in the remake of "Marina"? She quipped, "I can portray!"

Julia's "Maria Clara" rival Kathryn Bernardo is being groomed as the next Judy Ann Santos. But like Kathryn, Julia wants to be her own person, thank you. "When we met Judy Ann (the original Maria) and Glaiza (Reyes, the original Clara), they told me not to be ourselves," Julia recalled.

Before "Maria Clara" beckoned, Julia, a graduate of the kiddie show, "Going Bulilit," dreamt of becoming a flight researcher or a chef. Now she has time to satisfy much (she and Kathryn are sought after screen girls of soap like Star Cinema and Chalk) but she still wants to pursue studies.

"I hope to enroll in Angelicum College and take up either literature or culinary arts," said Julia. She is working hard, balancing show biz and studies, for her family—grandmother, mother and siblings.

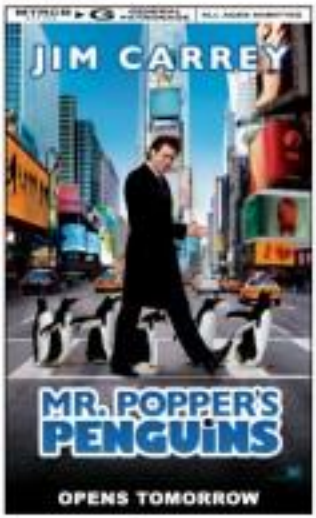
She has always candidly discussed her modest background and never hid the fact that her mom is hearing impaired. "She's deaf and mute," Julia clarified. "I've had an issue sign language."

Julia was an avid fan of "Maria Clara," the second daughter recounted. "She followed the story by simply observing," Julia related. "She felt the emotions. When she didn't understand anything, she asked me and I explained it to her."

Pleasing her mother is this single star's overarching goal. Julia considers it a "major achievement."

E-mail her at bayan@inquirer.com.ph

JULIA Montes: The new Claudine?



Carole King memoir due April 2012

NEW YORK—Rock 'n' roll songwriter Carole King has a book deal. The just-signed with Grand Central Publishing to write her memoir.

The book will be named after one of her most famous songs, "Natural Woman." The publisher said Monday the book is due in April 2012.

King, 69, wrote or cowrote such hits as "Up on the Roof" and "You've Got a Friend."

Besides writing hits for other performers, King sang her own material on the classic "Tapestry" album. That album has sold more than 10 million copies in the United States alone.

Other rock stars working on memoirs include The Who's Pete Townshend and Gregg Allman of the Allman Brothers Band. AP

LUCKY SONG Maria Joyce Tolentino (fourth from left) sings her winning piece after being named "1st Tenor OPM Performer." Looking on are (from left) first runner-up Charlie Kevin Tan, second runner-up Rena Rubber Bolonia, Pagcor president and COO Jorge Sarmiento, Kipi Mirasol, Regine Velasquez, Ted Magalat, Nanette Inventor, Celeste Legaspi and Jaclin Cimmaro.

I got my hair back.

I look younger, feel better – unstoppable!

– Mark Gil, *Actor*

After more than a decade, acclaimed actor Mark Gil finally sports a full head of hair again. And he's back for more action.

"I started going bald when I was in my mid-30s. I noticed my hairline was receding. In my 40s, my crown area was thinning, and continued to advanced baldness. I lost confidence, felt insecure and became envious of men with fuller hair. It restricted me in life. I was conscious all the time of... Kokako-fixation," he recalls.

As a man in his prime, he thought he should be

like others enjoying the time of their lives. "There were lots of things that I wanted to do, to experience then in full blast, without frustration and embarrassment because of my hairloss. So I bought 'thickening products' from Australia, 'no-growth shampoos' from abroad and an expensive 'hair spray paint.' But nothing happened. The more I used these remedies, the older I looked and the more I was teased by my colleagues," he says.

Other stars give in to baldness easily – but not Mark. "I thought, I'm satisfied with my face and body, but I want my hair back. When I learned that Transvan offers a non-surgical hair replacement procedure, I was convinced to give it a try. With **Transdermal Cosmetic Reconstruction (TCR)**, I got my hair back! I'm impressed! It looks perfect and feels natural like my own. I felt like I had never been bald at all," he adds.

With his new full head of hair, Mark regained his confidence and he's back on top of his game with no reservations. "I look younger, feel better – unstoppable! In fact, I even get more movie and TV offers now. I think my hair helps a lot. I do action scenes, play scenes, jet ski and swim with my hair. I'm not afraid to get it wet. It looks very natural, wet or dry. I'm amazed!"

Mark is not the only one satisfied with how TCR brought his hair back – his wife, too. "My wife is very happy. She is like sleeping with a new man also. Also, people ask me, 'Also advertisan po.' With more hair, I feel I have more confidence and sleep 'My wife is Mowre-ny!'"

Have a full head of hair again and get back in action – only with **Transdermal Cosmetic Reconstruction (TCR)**. Call Transvan at **891-4347/234-8071** (7 clinics) now for your FREE private consultation today.

Pagcor search winner was about to give up

AFTER a four-month nationwide search for exceptional amateur singers, the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and Organizer-ing Philpheony Blang-smark (OPM) recently named the "1st Tenor OPM Performer."

Maria Joyce Tolentino of Angeles City was named grand winner of the search, "CHARISMATIC," Grand finals night was held at the Pagcor Grand Theater of the Airport Casino Hotel in Parañaque City.

Tolentino bested 13 other grand finalists with her rendition of "Ula," a Lani Misalucha original. The 23-year-old Grand singer said it is her lucky song.

She didn't expect to win in the face of such formidable competition. Tolentino said, "I thought I'd just take my consolation prizes after the finals and ask Pagcor to please release me from the performance contract," she admitted. When happened was, she took home a cash prize of P500,000, a recording contract with a major record recording company and a performance contract with Pagcor worth P900,000.

Before she joined the Pagcor awards, Tolentino had landed a job with an international cruise ship and was thinking of quitting singing altogether. She recounted, "At that point, my real **pasc experience** with singing contests was starting to make me feel like a loser. This talent show was my last attempt."

Second placer Charles Kevin Tan of Bacolod City won P200,000 in cash and a performance contract worth P500,000. Tan was grateful for the training the contenders received from leading OPM personalities and music educators.

Third placer Rena Rubber Bolonia of San Carlos City, Pangasinan, a 19-year-old education student, expressed the same sentiment. "I learned a lot from our workshops," Bolonia said. "I learned that good singing is not just about hitting the high notes, that the singer should become the song." Bolonia received P150,000 in cash prize plus a P200,000 performance contract.

New OPM stars

All the other finalists were each given P50,000 in cash and a P100,000 performance contract. All the prizes are net-paid.

Bing Quintana, Pagcor assistant vice president for Entertainment, said the nightly entertainment shows of the new OPM stars will run month. All 14 grand finalists will perform in Casino Filipino nationwide.

The judges on finals night were OPM president Ogie Alcasid and his wife Regine Velasquez, Celeste Legaspi, Ted Magpayo, wife of the Pagcor chair Cristino Naguiat Jr., and Pagcor president and COO Jorge Sarmiento.

Finals night will be aired June 19 on PTV-4, at 9:15 p.m.

PROUDLY GREEN 100 Years of La Salle 100

Celebrating the Lasallian Century

By Oliver Stanger Cruz

THE LA Salle community celebrates its 100th year in the Philippines and the public acknowledgment that it is one of the two or three Filipino educational institution that has provided the leaders in all aspects of Philippine society – business, public service, education, civil society, culture, sports and the religious sector.

This role as the educator of Philippine leaders will be the theme of a Centennial coffee table book that will be launched on August of this year. A roster of outstanding Lasallian alumni could easily be the foundation for a Philippine hall of fame. Some of the names in the list includes former Senator Jose Diokno and former Senator Lorenzo Tanada in public service; Joseph Mallikking, Francisco Ortigas Jr., Ramon del Rosario Sr., Eduardo Aboitiz, Eduardo Cojuangco and Alfonso Yuchengco in business; the Secretary of Finance or Central Bank Governor in almost every administration the past 25 years like Jose Cuisia, Ramon del Rosario Jr., Bobby de Ocampo, Jose Pardo, Paeng Romuvaldez, Leo Cassasibo, and Cesar Purisima.

The list is too long for this column so I would encourage readers to buy the Centennial coffee table book this August if they want to see the other names.

For Lasallians and believers in the Lasallian mission, all roads literally led to the AXD Center at the Mall of Asia on Saturday, June 11 where a grand musical extravaganza with its 100 years history as the theme, was presented as the Centennial Opening Celebration. The event has been called Proudly Green Proudly Dare La Salle.

What does it mean to be Lasallian? for those in serious search for the answer to this question, the best way is to explore Lasallian literature and, in this column, I offer just a few of the books in this very extensive library.

LEARNING 51

HOT NEWS from SWATCH

SWATCH presents the trendiest FULL-BLOODED watches yet. Ten new Diaphane-Chrono watches present signature SWATCH plastic cases framing straight-off-the-catwalk colored dials with rugged aluminium bands and bracelets in fashionable, perfectly matched colors.

In a direct appeal to confident, trend-conscious women, three of the new models feature sparkling crystal hour markers & flagrant colors.

while another two mirror the widespread fascination with skulls, presenting dials with haunting, silvery skull silhouettes.

An additional set of five new monochrome unisex models features up-to-the-minute colors designed to match the latest trends. All models in the new SWATCH FULL-BLOODED COLLECTION offer the classic look and feel of the Diaphane-Chrono with its easily readable dials and lightweight, sporty and elegant design.

And of course, because it's a Swatch... It's Swiss Made.

SWATCH is available at SWATCH Stores in SM Megamall, Glorietta 4, Green-belt 5 and Trinoma; SWATCH Kiosks in SM Mall of Asia, SM City North EDSA, SM City Davao, Glorietta 5, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Greenhills V-Mall, Shangri-La Plaza, Robinsons Place, Ayala, Ma. Lucia East Grand Mall, Fes-tival Mall and Ayala Center, Cebu; and HOLE IN THE WALL Shops in Alabang Town Center and Ayala Marquee Mall, Angeles, Pampanga.

swatch

Celebrating the Lasallian Century

From page E1

St. John Baptist De La Salle by Brother Andrew Gonzales FSC, Manila: DLSU 1986. This 32-page booklet is, perhaps, the best introduction to John Baptist De La Salle. It is divided in three parts of five bits. It begins with how St. La Salle "declassed" himself which means changing his social class from being a well-to-do cleric who gave up his inheritance to live among his Brothers among the poor children. Then there is De La Salle as the consummate manager as the timeless or well rounded and writer of books; as the educational innovator who changed the traditional normal style of teaching to the modern classroom style; and, the socially committed who used most of his wealth to establish a teaching order and to help the poor.

The author, Brother Andrew Gonzales FSC was president of DLSU and was himself an educator, a missionary who transformed the institution into a modern educational center that became ranked among the best in Asia. He was also secretary of the Department of Education for several years.

Reaching the Hearts of Students: Characteristics of Lasallian Schools by Brother George Van Grieken FSC, Strickland USA, Christian Brothers Publications 1999.

According to the author, the book is for all those individuals – administrators, Brothers, teachers, coaches, staff, students, parents, alumni, and others – who find themselves asking the question, "What does it mean to be Lasallian?" The book addresses the three main questions that underlie the question of Lasallian identity.

- What was the Saint John Baptist de La Salle?
- What educational practice and vision remain about because of his influence?
- What does that vision and practice look like today?

The Appendix of the book is actually one of the most interesting commentary on Lasallian education I have read. There are four topics.

First, there are the "Ten Commitments of Lasallian Schools" that are based on foundational Lasallian convictions and manifested in consistent practice. Each commitment is presented in the form of an attribute or quality of a Lasallian school.

Second, there is a description and explanation of the Lasallian Mission and Vision. Third is the Catholic Lasallian Associational Process which is composed as a vision of the Catholic and Lasallian character of the school within an assessment and review process designed to identify strengths and target areas for growth.

Fourth, there is a Glossary of Lasallian Terms which is a kind of dictionary of terms. For example Lasallian is spelled as one word and is defined as "an adjective used to describe whatever is in the Brothers heritage or tradition as initiated by De La Salle; more recently also used as a noun to name those who share in the mission and heritage of an institute."

Brother Gridon FSC has also a long list of unannotated book. One of the most interesting is the following two of four books:

The Origins: An Introduction to the History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools by Oscar Bedel. Translated by Allan Geppert. Rome, Italy: Brothers of the Christian Schools 1994 and 1998.

These four volumes will present a modern reading of the history of the Institute. The first volume covers the period 1651-1726. De La Salle notes only the primary actor in the story until 1719 when the focus shifts to the Brothers as the principal actors. Bedel does an excellent job in 232 pages of situating the birth of the Institute and of the Christian Schools within the social, cultural, religious and political context of the time.

The second volume covers the period 1726-1804. Bedel presents in these pages the story of the great expansion of the Institute in the 18th Century until its near collapse during the French Revolution.

St. John Baptist De La Salle: A 17th Century Educational Innovator by Gregory Wright FSC, Manila Philippines, DLSU Press.

This book is actually a collection of sixteen essays written by the author with the intention of providing deeper insights into and a fuller understanding of St. La Salle's life and work in primary education. The first essay is: "The Splendid Century: The Historical Setting for De La Salle and Work of St. John Baptist De La Salle"; and, the last essay is "La Salle's Impact on Education: Some Contemporary Views."

It is with pride and gratitude that we celebrate the Lasallian Century in the Philippines and we honor the Brothers and the teachers who have made the vision of St. John Baptist de La Salle a reality in his country.

Alfred E. Cruz, DBM is a professor of Strategic Management of the MBA Program, College of Business, De La Salle University. Please send comments or queries to alfredecruz@gmail.com

The Centennial of La Salle in the Philippines

THE LA Salle Philippine District is presently in the midst of its year-long celebration of "100 Years of Meaningful Presence in the country – starting from the March 2011 Alumni Homecomings and culminating in the March 2012 Homecoming.

The Centennial Week Celebration kicked off on Saturday, June 11, with the biggest Lasallian fellowship event ever – Proudly Green, the Lasallian Family Experience! Held at the DMV Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, the entire ground floor was made for the exclusive use of Lasallians – Christian Brothers, faculty, administrators of the 17 district schools all over the country, students, alumni, and the extended Lasallian family.

This event was organized, and managed by the Grade School and High School Taft Chapter of the De La Salle Alumni Association. A basketball of Bahang Lahat, the organizing committee is chaired by Bombet Aramita, and its members include chapter president Manny Blanco, Tess Arenas, Boy Kalaw, Abe Pena, Cesar de Leonardo, Dante Lagunzad, Quintin Ramos, Andrei Rubio, Portia Santos and Tony Cervantes.

While there were many highlights of the event, the centerpiece was the fabulous stage presentation of "Proudly Green: The Musical", an hour-long theater presentation of La Salle's 100-year history, directed by multi-awarded alumnus Pilar Pallarne. The 3-act show was set to song with music pieces from different stage successes, such as "Les Miserables", "Grease", "The Sound of Music", Bohemian Rhapsody" and other popular music with lyrics changed to describe, narrate, portray situations pertaining to, or identified with La Salle and Lasallian. The excellent lyrics were written by Abe Pena, a most notable alumnus. Professionally helmed from start to finish – starting with the production supported by a multi-talented cast of Lasallians of different ages. While "Proudly Green" was scene in a fabulous event, this musical falls under the "must see and experience" category that had the audience feel Proudly Green!.

Other notable highlights:

- A graphic and audio-visual presentation guiding the audience through the various milestones of the Christian Brothers, the educational institutions, and the men and women who were under the auspices of Lasallian.
- Individual photo ops utilizing the Green Screen, where one picks his/her choice from several background options, such as the first school in Manila, the pioneering first Christian Brothers in the country, the main building on Taft Avenue, after the battle of Manila in 1945.
- An exhibit area which showcased La Salle's education and service advocacies, as well as individual and corporate private service advocacies and initiatives.
- A memorabilia area where all celebration attendees viewed, experienced, and even purchased various items considered keepsakes.
- All attendees were treated to cocktails, a sumptuous full course buffet dinner, and a full array of drinks to choose from – truly something for everyone in this Lasallian's dream of a celebration. "Proudly Green - The Musical" was followed by the outstanding dance routine of the much sought-after Rockin' Revival Band. Some 30 top rated dance instructors were present to help in the celebration, and dance off the menu calories accumulated during dinner.

'While 'Proudly Green' was a once-in-a-lifetime event, the event's musical falls under the 'must see and experience' category that had the audience feel 'Proudly Green'

THE LA Salle community scene felt 'Proudly Green' after being part of the Lasallian Family Experience of 2011! As doors opened at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 11 at the SMX Convention Center, Lasallians walked through time as the history of the Lasallian heritage unfolded followed by an inspiring musical done in lyric theater depicting the 100-year history of La Salle in the Philippines in song and dance.

Existing Broadway, rock, pop and gospel music never been carefully chosen with the lyrics rewritten to become the script of the play. Cast members were La Salle veterans, alumni, and professional actors/singers.

Directed by multi awarded Francis "Frizz" Pallarne (HS'57), the music, lyrics and visual highlights supported the very conceptual approach of the musical which transported the viewer through a mix of emotions, from smiles to laughter to dramatic moments, and enough to anyone to a collective feeling of family, of 'being Proudly Green.' Lasallians couldn't help but smile as the lyrics of the music that threads the three acts conveyed a countrypoint of familiarity and serendipity. They were pleasantly surprised at how a popular rock song provides the best for the early years of La Salle, culminating in that first game between La Salle and Ateneo. Viewers tried to hold back their tears as a gentle song floated across the theatre of a university that befell Lasallians on February 12, 1945. They then laughed at the frivolity of the scene depicting the entry of the first Lasallian females. Lasallians smiled and sighed as specific songs familiar to all Lasallian ages brought them to realize that they were really One La Salle after all. Viewers were moved by the next generation of Lasallians as they sobbed and sang about their future in a world that was not well cared for our generation. In the end, Lasallians were inspired with a boldness and resolve that their forefathers – who evolve as the heritage of Lasallian education they received in the last hundred years sustained them, and brought Lasallians full circle into the next hundred years.

After the show, a sumptuous dinner, dancing, fellowship commenced. The event started and ended with everyone who attended feeling "Proudly Green"!

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'Proudly Green' kicks off De La Salle's 100th year

"PROUDLY GREEN", an inspiring musical done in lyric theater, kicked off the De La Salle University Centennial Opening Celebration on June 15, Saturday, 6 p.m. at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

The event walked the audience through time as the history of La Salle's heritage unfolded via captivating Broadway, rock, pop and gospel music with lyrics specially written not only to transport them back to the good old days but also to inspire and fill everyone with renewed resolve as Lasallians.

Multi-awarded director Francis "Frizz" Irlanda (HS '97) said that the music, lyrics and visual highlights support the very conceptual approach of the musical which bring the audience through a mix of emotions and give them a collective feeling of being part of the La Salle Family, of being "Proudly Green."

The three-act musical did not only have professional actors and singers as cast members but will also included talented La Salle students and alumni.

A fellowship night greeted the audience after the show, which featured a sumptuous dinner as well as dancing.

The Christian Brothers: Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

THE BROTHERS of the Christian Schools is a Roman Catholic religious teaching Congregation founded in 1680 by Saint John Baptist de la Salle in France, which its head quarters now based in Rome.

All Christian Brothers use the post-nominal abbreviation "FSC", which is "Fratres Scholarum Christianorum". Latin for Brothers of the Christian Schools. In actual use, a Christian Brother is identified in the manner "Mr Josiah Bourdier, FSC".

In the 1965 and 1966 Centuries, the headquarters of the Christian Brothers was in France (successively in Rouen, Lyons, Paris), Early in the 20th Century the headquarters was located in Belgium (Lembecq-lez-Hallet). Since 1967, Rome has been the location of its headquarters, as the Generalate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The Brothers Community is headed by its Superior General, who governs the De La Salle Institute assisted by the General Council. The incumbent Superior General is Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria, a Costa Rican Brother who has held the position since 2000. He was the president of the Union of Superior Generals (many different religious orders) in 2000-2006.

Founder St. John Baptist De La Salle emphasized the virtue of faith for the Brothers. "The spirit of this Institute is first, a spirit of faith, which should induce those who compose it not to look upon anything but with the eyes of Faith, seeing in all only God." (Rule 1718). He also said that "It is only the hearts of your students and so inspire them with the Christian spirit is the greatest miracle you could perform, and the one that God asks of you, since this is the purpose of your work."

The Brothers Rule asserts that the Mission of the Institute is "to provide a distinct and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry recommended to them by the Church."

The Institute today conducts educational work in 85 different countries, in both developed and developing nations, with over 10,000,000 students enrolled in its education works.

From 1681 until 1986, a non-profit unit of the entire extra-territory in Napa Valley, an Grignolino Cellars near St. Helena, California. Most famous for Christian Brothers brandy, the operation and rights to the name were sold to Heublein, Inc in 1980. The present Napa Valley winery is also home to Christian Brothers who have established.

In 1981 the institute assisted an educational responsible investment service for Catholic organizations. The service accepts to use to close holdings to influence the way the companies in which it has invested operate. Lasallian schools and institutions incorporate "Signum Fidei" (Latin for "sign of faith") as a mark of their heritage.

The man called St. John Baptist De La Salle

DE LA Salle was born in France on April 30, 1651, the oldest son of a magistrate of Rheims. Rich, talented and influential, he had a splendid career before him, but at the early age of eleven made up his mind to become a priest. After taking his Master of Arts degree, he entered the Seminary and was ordained priest at the age of 27.

For some time he was undecided as the Cathedral of Rheims. Then one day, there came a man who changed the course of his life. His name was Adrian Nyel. He had been sent by a lady of Rouen to establish a free school for poor boys in Rheims. He was to consult De La Salle. From the beginning De La Salle took a keen interest in the new venture. He began by inviting Nyel to each one to have their meals with him, taught them how to teach, visited them in their classes, and ended by lodging them in his own house. During a notice with famine, he sold his estates and distributed his fortune among the poor. Soon he was as poor as his teachers. From then on they looked on him as their father and founder.

He had absolute faith and trust in God and he loved mankind. He was a man of great originality of mind who sensed the future educational needs of the ordinary people about to enter the Industrial Revolution. He broke the tradition of teaching through classical languages and firmly established the language of the street as the language of the classroom. He showed that teachers had to be trained and that teaching was a vocation and an honorable profession.

He forty years he toiled at founding free schools for the poor and organizing the Congregation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools to carry on his work. He met with opposition from all sides - from those whose vested interests suffered, from the Jansenists and from people who misunderstood him. He died on Good Friday, April 7, 1719.

Timeline on St. John Baptist De La Salle:

- Born April 30, 1651 in Rheims, France
- Ordained a priest on April 9, 1678
- Died April 7, 1719
- Beatified February 19, 1888
- Canonized May 15, 1900
- In 1950, Pope Pius XII declared him "Patron Saint of All Teachers"

ST JOHN Baptist De La Salle stressed that teachers had to be trained and that teaching was a vocation and an honorable profession.

La Salle in its Centennial Year

WE ARE "Proudly Green" brothers we are today, especially considering the following:

- Over 300,000 alumni from La Salle Schools in the Philippines.
- Over 300,000 alumni from De La Salle University-Manila alone.
- 17 Lasallian schools nationwide. Many other supervised schools nationwide.
- 33 Philippine DLSAA Chapters globally
  - 8 DLSU-Manila College-Based Chapters
  - 7 Other Campus-Based Chapters
  - 6 Regional Chapters (Philippines nationwide)
  - 12 International Chapters
  - 7 Affiliate Groups
  - 42 Alumni Associations in the Philippine District
- In celebrating the Centennial Lasallians are:
  - Remembering the Past,
  - Living this Present, and
  - Creating the Future.
- The relic of St. John Baptist de la Salle has arrived in the Philippines. It will be installed and venerated at the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament, DLSU-Manila
- The Superior General and the Vicar General are scheduled to visit the Philippines during this Centennial Year.
- One of La Salle Philippines' ultimate goals - that of having 20% of students systemwide under full scholarship - is completely be realized in the next future.
- Some 11 different book launchings regarding the role, goals, developments, and achievements of the institution and its alumni are scheduled during the year.
- There is a planned pilgrimage of Lasallians to France, the country and birthplace of founder, St. John Baptist De La Salle.
- On October 28-30, La Salle will have 2 simultaneous events:
  - DLSAA 8th World Congress (Congregation of Lasallian Alumni in the Philippines)
  - BIMAS, World Congress (Congregation of Lasallian Alumni Worldwide)
- The centennial uniting theme of the above is:
  ONE Vision, ONE World, ONE La Salle
- Five (5) whole days of cooperation, coordination and synergy among all Lasallians worldwide, in which the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th days will center on FSLC:
  - 2nd Day Faith
  - 3rd Day Service
  - 4th Day Communion

Understanding the 4G alphabet soup

4 PIECES of LTE, a dash of HSPA+, and a dot, top of Mbps: the perfect ingredients for a bewildering serving of 4G alphabet soup.

By far the most complex dish cooked up by the telco industry, the hodge-podge brings with a showbiz-rich name which conceals—somewhat—whether even those with technical taste buds. To make things worse, misinformation and hide claims about the next-coming of 4G technology have been thrown around like poorly connected routers whose sole purpose is to fan the flames of friction.

To help you wade through the fusion of confusion, here is a collection of the many letters, acronyms, and initiatives which give the next generation broadband breath to unique flavor.

4G literally means fourth-generation. It refers to the forthcoming evolution of today's mobile networks which will allow them to transmit large amounts of data in the fastest way possible. With 4G, you can enjoy faster download speeds on your mobile gadgets such as your laptop, your tablet, and soon, even your phone—which is already do on a 3G (third-generation) connection.

As prescribed by the ITU (International Telecommunications Union), the United Nations agency that governs the telecommunications industry, a wireless connection should be capable of transmitting data at speeds of at least 100 megabits per second—or mbps—for it to qualify as 4G.

The technology most telcos around the world acknowledge is in the more logical way into 4G is LTE, or otherwise known as long Term Evolution. Given its unparalleled potential for operating at high speeds, LTE has been introduced in the United States, Japan, and in Europe through the efforts of telecom companies Verizon, MTT DoCoMo, and Teliasonera, respectively.

In the Philippines, Smart Communications (Smart) is the first and only telco to introduce LTE.

Another technology which offers improved connection speeds is HSPA+ which stands for Evolved High Speed Packet Access. Smart has been testing HSPA+ technology since 2009 and like LTE, is ready to provide a better mobile and broadband Internet experience to all its users.

But while HSPA+ is definitely faster than an ordinary 3G connection, it does not do enough 3G infrastructure and capacity, which falls short of the ITU's benchmark. The same goes with WiMax (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access), another network technology which Smart has made available commercially in 2010, which is capable of speeds of up to 40mbps.

For a 4G network like Smart LTE to function efficiently as consumer infrastructure of fiber optic cables or POGs are essential. POGs are used to connect cell sites which have been installed in the United States, Japan, and in Europe through the efforts of telecom companies Verizon, NTT DoCoMo, and Teliasonera, respectively.

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EPLDT, ICS FORM RESELLER PARTNERSHIP

Premier ICT company ePLDT and leading solutions provider Integrated Computer Systems Inc. (ICS) have recently sealed a reseller agreement, with ICS now offering ePLDT's Hosted Contact Center Plus (HCCP) to its customers. HCCP, the country's first hosted multi-tenant contact center solution, is a pay-as-you-go cost option to connect seven agents via Bluetooth and easily be installed and maintained as well as cost-efficient, allowing organizations to enjoy superior implementation, streamlined operations, and reduced cost of integration, management and maintenance. Photo shows (from left) Mary K. Ngo, ICS vice president for business development; Lawrence Lao; George T. Barcelon, ICS president; Ruth C. Lui, ePLDT president and chief executive officer; and Wilfred L. Jaroque, ePLDT assistant vice president for SME operations, during the formal contract signing held at the ePLDT head office.

CashCash Pinoy offers fantastic everyday deals

GONE are the days when people have to wait for anniversary promos, induction sales or store-opening discounts to get access to the best deals in town. Pick a season, any season, and you can get unbelievable discounts for a large selection of incredible deals: fine or casual dining, fashion and accessories, spa and salon, sports, travel and leisure services, shows and concerts, and a whole lot more. What's more consumers are looking for, they can choose from among dozens of amazing deals here. The difference is that it comes with a huge discount.

The system is very simple. Everyday, CashCashPinoy highlights several new deals that no one can ignore. Unbeatable prices as much as 90% discount are offered for a few days, so people must be quick! With deals that are too good to be true, just click the "Buy" button and it's yours after a simple and totally secure transaction process.

CashCashPinoy partners with the biggest retailers, best spas, top restaurants, outstanding health/beauty establishments, desirable gadgets, hip fashion and accessories brands for an unforgettable cyber shopping experience.

So get ready to enjoy daily huge savings and irresistible offers by enrolling at the deals exclusively hosted at www.cashcashpinoy.com.

HEAD JOHNSON NUTRITION 2011 SCHOLARS

Chelle-Ann Mead Johnson Nutrition (SEA) Philippines employees who are exemplary in their academic performance were recognized by the company recently by awarding scholarship grants and educational assistance. Photo shows some of the 130 scholars from elementary to college level with SEAN executives led by president and general manager Paul Polmans. Mead Johnson is a world leading nutrition based multinational company whose mission is to provide babies and children with the best start in life.

More consumers see benefits of going for generic medicines

AS THE vast market of generic medicines opens up to consumers, more Filipinos are becoming better informed about the options available for their healthcare needs and for their budget. There are also increasing numbers of single users of the fact that generic medicines are just as safe and effective as branded ones.

A statement from the Department of Health cited the latest Social Weather Station (SWS) survey which revealed that generic medicines are used by about 15% of the population, up from 10% in 2003. The statistics is the result of the Philippine drug use that medicines prices have gone cheaper compared to just seven pesos who said the same in 2003.

On a regional perspective, a study conducted by research consulting firm Pivot and Huft-ton has Pacific covering the generic pharmaceutical markets in East Asia, particularly in Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and the Philippines, recorded a growth rate of 12.3%, surpassing the global growth rate from 6.6%.

"The trend is certainly encouraging, and the figures are bound to grow over time," said Philip Tan, vice president of The Generics Pharmacy "As access to generic medicines grows, more patients feel empowered to decide what medicines they want to buy depending on their prices and their budget."

During the briefing, the official role played by a drug's active ingredient or compound is also the key that convinces consumers that generic or store brand products are as effective and trustworthy as mainstream brands. These generic medicines are approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to give public assurance of their safety and efficacy in fighting many diseases like hypertension, high cholesterol levels, respiratory infections, allergies and other illnesses.

The Generics Pharmacy, the biggest drugstore chain in the country, is confident that the market will maintain a double-digit growth rate in the next 3 to 5 years.

"Generic medicines are really making a significant shift in the consumer mindset," Tan said. "Given the difficult economic times and the growing number of poor Filipinos, generic medicines prevent patients from cutting running out their health. The poor can afford generic medicines, while those that have the means to buy don't have to pay unnecessarily more for their medications."

EducAid conducts presentation skills seminar

EDUCAID WILL hold its first seminar "From Conscious to Confident: Improve your Presentation Skills Now!" on Aug. 27, Saturday, at Bulay Kalinaw, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. Trainer Jehzel Estrella Capilos, an education and professional speaker, will discuss topics like the types of opening presentations, basics of organizing information, the techniques and strategies of retaining audience attention, proper use of visual aids, appropriate body language, among others. Learning investment is P2,000. Pre-registration rate until July 31 is P1,800, and students enjoy a discounted rate of P1,500. Contact EducAid at 920-1432, 0919 4196540, 0915-4179547, e-mail educaid.help@gmail.com, or follow EducAid on Facebook (EducAid) and Twitter (EducAidEvents) for more details.

TOYOTA HELPS ADOPTED SCHOOL PREPARE FOR SCHOOL OPENING

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) recently conducted its annual "Brigada Eskwela" in Pinkong Sta. Cruz Elementary School (PSCES) in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Every year, Toyota participates in the nationwide program by the Department of Education (DepEd) to ensure that PSCES, its adopted school, is ready for the school opening. Toyota volunteers took part in the two-week activity to conduct minor repairs, maintenance work and clean-up in various school premises. Toyota also donated school supplies, painting and repair materials for the activity. This year, DepEd chose PSCES as the host of the kick-off ceremony of the "Brigada Eskwela" in the whole Santa Rosa City.

MANILA WATER COMPANY EXECUTIVE CITED BY IABC

Ruel Maranan, group director for corporate social responsibility of Manila Water Company was awarded as one of the country's best communicators by the International Association of Business Communicators Philippines in awarding ceremonies held at the Solaire Ballroom, Solaire Resort and Casino, Parañaque City. Maranan was recognized for his contribution in various programs that ensure service continuity to eastern Metro Manila's 6.1 million residents during low-crisis and natural calamities, advocate water and wastewater conservation and appreciation for the value of water as a precious resource and the need for wastewater management, and promote work-life balance among its employees through various wellness, sports and knowledge development programs.

Pictured with him are (from left) Karen Frost-Olivas, head, corporate affairs and HR, AES-GEN Corp.; Atty. Vic Emilio Romanillo, regional director for North Asia, IABC; Elyn Cuna, Jr., consultant, San Miguel Corp. and Communications Association officers consultant; Philippine Chamber for Commerce and Industry.

READER'S DIGEST 2011 TRUSTED BRAND

Reader's Digest Philippines recently awarded the Platinum and Gold Trusted Brand Excellence to local and non-local companies based on the results of a scientific consumer survey. The Trusted Brand program, now on its 10th year, is an annual consumer research-based project which aims to recognize brands that have become the benchmark for product excellence and customer service. Shown in photo are the awardees with Reader's Digest executives from Singapore and the Philippines. The awardees included Unilever, Century Tuna, Nestlé, Monterey, Metro, Philam Life, PLDT, Lambing, PLDT Myrtle, Fiber, St. Luke's Medical Center, BPI, Globe, BPI Asset Management, Philam Asset Management Inc., 4505-Elite, GMA-7, Sky Media City, GMA Kapuso Foundation, Jollibee, Cebu Pacific, Shopwise, 02 Mattresses, Safeguard, Avon, Sony, Bayan Di, Ajinomoto, Magnolia Fresh Chicken, Coleman, Pandesal Forever and Jessica Soho.

PRODUCT FILES

The gift of health for dad

CELEBRATE DAD'S special day by showing him how much you appreciate his health-conscious lifestyle by helping him embark on a healthier lifestyle with the gift of health and natural cleansing of Herbilyze Health Drink. With its perfect blend of over 30 natural fruit juices and herbal extracts, the special mixer ensures that you can enjoy its many benefits in effective and better tasting ways towards healthier cleansing. Being a highly concentrated source of powerful nutrients, this health beverage is a revolutionary wellness product that has the capacity to help cleanse the body of harmful substances that cause a variety of health problems. Prepare a healthy and delicious beverage and mark hands for instant gift-giving. Herbilyze is available at Mercury Drugstores, Watsons, Rustan's Supermarket and other leading retailers nationwide. For details, e-mail us at herbilyze@yahoo.com or visit www.herbilyze.com.

Greet a great dad

THIS FATHER'S Day, tell your dad just how much you appreciate his love and unending patience. A warm cup of coffee, a big hug and a Hallmark Father's Day card are simple gifts that will let him know how important he is to you. Witty and funny, sentimental and moving, Hallmark Father's Day cards let you tell your daddy exactly how grateful you are that he is your dad. So take time to pause for a while and let Hallmark Father's Day cards give voice to the love and appreciation you have for the man who has shared your life with the strength of his love. Hallmark Father's Day cards are distributed by Hallmar Distribution Corp. and are available at National Book Store branches and other fine retail stores nationwide.

FAL, TIM MEL AND ASSOCIATES INK CONTRACT

Philippine Airlines (PAL) recently signed a contract with Tim Mel and Associates, a 20-based aviation consultant, to provide technical assistance to the Civil Aeronautics Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) in helping the country regain full compliance with international aviation safety standards. The contract was signed in Los Angeles, California, by retired Brig. Gen. Tim Mel (2nd from left) and PAL president James J. Hourihan (right). Others shown after the contract signing are Cesar Cheng (left), senior assistant vice president and executive assistant to the PAL president, and Capt. Johnny Andrew, deputy director general for operations, CAAP.

PDS PRESIDENT NAMED 2011 CSR EXCEL AWARDEE

Philippine Dealing System Holding Corp. president and CEO Vicente Cuide Cuide who recently received the CSR Excel Awards in the Banking and Finance Category for the international economic role of Business Communicators (ABC) Philippines. Cuide was cited for achieving the PDS's goal of being the market economy, the CSR Excel Awards is the highest corporate social responsibility recognition given by ABC Philippines, its president (from left) Vicente and awarding night chair Kate Dizon, 2011 CSR Excel Awards head. Others in photo are Bonaventure Cuide Castillo, ABC Philippines chair Elizabeth Cuna Jr. and ABC Philippines president Carmencita Sison.

PHILIPPINE TENNIS LEAGUE DOUBLES CHALLENGE

Philippine Tennis League organized its first tournament this year with PTL's President Challenge held on Oct 9 at Forbes Country Manila. Members of Forbes Golf Course, Manila, Manila Golf Club, Valley Golf, Subic, Mimosa Golf, Creative Clubs Commercial Photography and Philippine Racquet Club. Philippine Daily Inquirer was the official media partner.